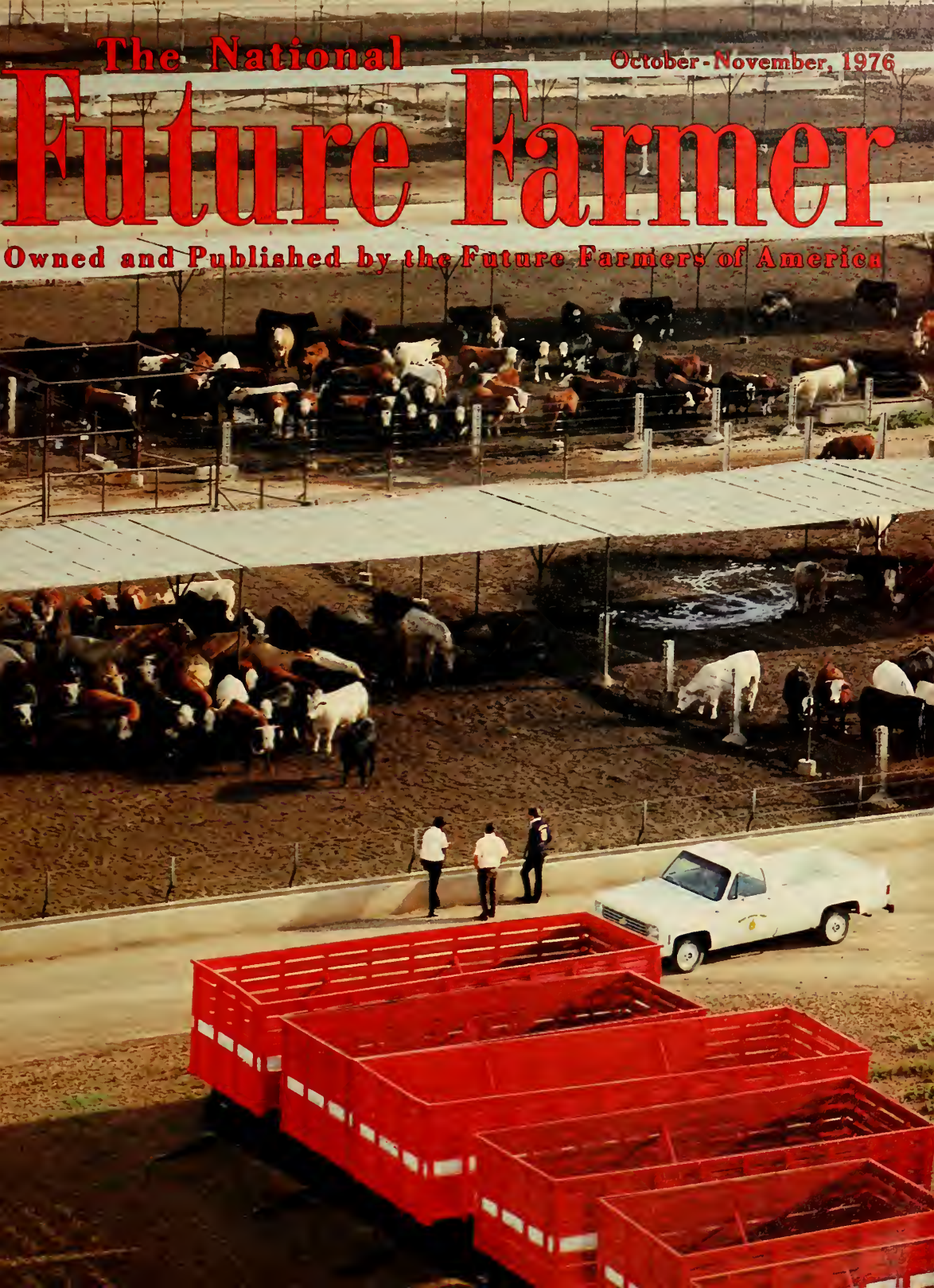
The National

Future Farmer

October-November, 1976

Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America



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Future Farmer
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October-November, 1976

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A Word With The Editor

The time for decision is about here. Within a few days, many of you will have to decide. Which will it be? Ford and Dole; or Carter and Mondale? Democrat or Republican?

For some of you that will not be a problem. You did not register to vote. So someone else will have to make this decision for you. For those who are not old enough to vote, your time will come. But if you are 18 now, you will be 22 years old before you get the chance to vote for another President of the United States.

How do you decide? Actually there are things I like about both candidates and there are things I don't like about both candidates. But that is the way it is with most elections, so you have to decide which candidate you like best and realize there probably never will be a candidate that will completely satisfy you on all issues.

Choosing a candidate for office is a lot like judging livestock in the FFA. You compare one with the other.

Like livestock judging, you will have to do your homework. Study the candidate and what he stands for. Study the party platform and especially their stand on agriculture. Look at the candidate's record. You might even want to discuss it with friends to get their views and pick up a few points you hadn't thought of yourself.

When you have all the information, place your candidates. I place this one over the other one because . . .

This is not to imply that candidates are like livestock. Rather it is to say that in FFA judging contests you have learned a method of decision making that you can use in many other situations. You compare one with the other and then pick your choice.

And discharging your responsibility as a citizen by voting is truly in the FFA tradition of good citizenship.

Wilson Carnes

In This Issue

Call to Convention 14
FFA's Great Candidates 18
A Look at French Beef 22
FFA Alumni—On Course 24
Women in Agriculture 28
Presidents' Conference 30
FFA Opinion Poll 31
Challenge at Chinle 32
Camera Ready 34
Men with Answers 38
Younger Farmers 42
Distance Riding 44
Big Enough to Enjoy 46
Bill's High on Auction 52
American Sheep Industry 54
New Products 58
Shirttail to Hang Onto 60
Candidate Face-Off 62
Top Hand at Bar M 64
Teton Dam is Breaking 68

In Every Issue

FFA News in Brief 6
Looking Ahead 10
From the Mailbag 12
Chapter Scoop 48
Bicentennial Briefs 57
FFA in Action 70
The Joke Page 76

The Cover

Despite the ups and downs of the beef industry, the cattle industry still holds promise for many of today's Future Farmers. To emphasize this issue's livestock theme, we captured an eagle's eye view of Arizona State President Howard Morrison at his family's feedlot near Phoenix, meeting with his vo-ag teachers Joe Granio and Gareth Cobb.

Cover photo by Gary Bye

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News in Brief

The FFA

NEW CONFERENCE ROOM DEDICATED—In a special dedication ceremony held in Alexandria, Virginia, a new all-purpose conference room was officially opened for use at the National FFA Center. The ceremony took place at the close of the summer FFA Board of Directors meeting. Members of the Board and officials of the U.S. Office of Education witnessed the ribbon cutting by the National FFA Officer team. The meeting room will provide space for conferences, meetings and other FFA activities.

SECRETARY BUTZ WILL ADDRESS WORLD CONFERENCE—U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz will be one of the featured speakers at the First World Conference in Agricultural Education for Youth and Adult Leaders to be held this fall in conjunction with the 1976 National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Hosted as a Bicentennial activity of the FFA, the World Conference is expected to attract 150 agricultural youth and their adult leaders from 22 nations for the five-day program. The conference will feature seminars on agriculture education for teachers, administrators and youth leaders, as well as the First International Agricultural Olympics competition.

MINNESOTA DAIRY TEAM REPRESENTS USA—Members of the Austin, Minnesota, FFA Chapter, winners of the 1975 National FFA Dairy Judging contest represented their country in international competition this summer. The team which placed fifth in the International Dairy Stock Judging Contest in Wales raised over $8,000 in their local community to sponsor their visit to Europe. In the photo, Governor Wendall Anderson of Minnesota signs a proclamation in recognition of the team's efforts. Also pictured are FFA Advisor Don Ritland, team members Darwin Hanson, Rick Rugg and Jeff Rugg, and Commissioner of Agriculture John Wefald.

HORTICULTURE PROGRAM TO BE EXPANDED—By action of the National FFA Board of Directors and Student Officers the present Ornamental Horticulture FFA Proficiency program will be eliminated and replaced with four new proficiency awards in the areas of Turf and Landscape Management, Nursery Operations, Floriculture and Fruit and Vegetable Production. The change will take effect in the 1977-78 school year contingent upon locating an award sponsor.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGEES VISIT—The groups of students pictured below represent eight countries as guests on farms in the United States through the FFA's Work Experience Abroad program. Many of the students involved are members of agricultural groups for young people in their own countries, similar to the FFA. The students spend either three or six months in this country living and working on their host farm, just as FFA members do in their host country. Nations represented are Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Israel and the United Kingdom.

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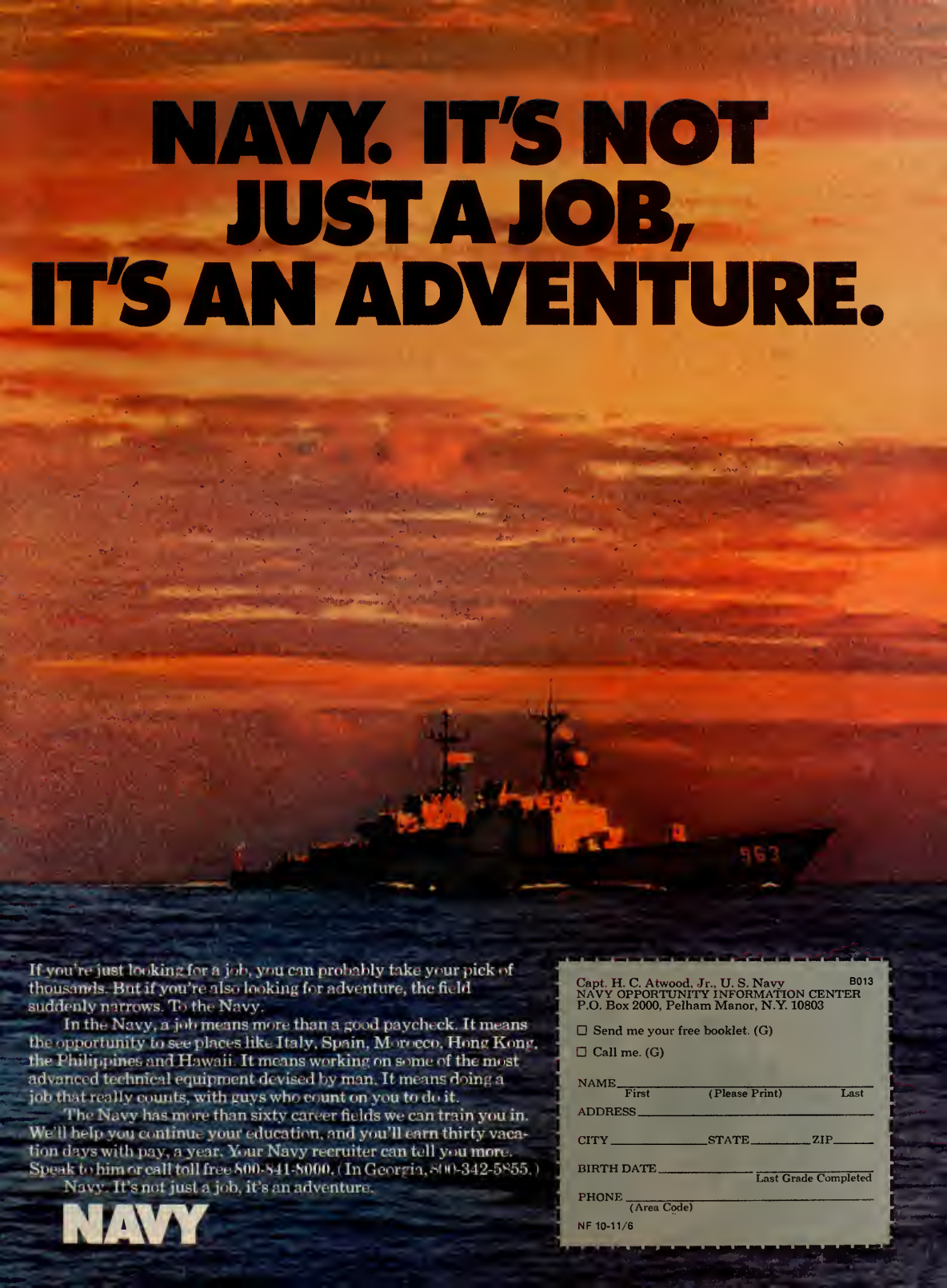

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hunting hints

Here's something everyone who is just starting to use a pump-action shotgun should remember: Never hold the trigger down while working the action between shots. This could result in the second shell being fired unintentionally the instant the bolt is closed. Even though most newer pumps are equipped with a safety sear that prevents this, stay on the safe side and always release the trigger between shots.

H. G. TAPPLY, Editor — Field & Stream

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Looking Ahead

Agriculture

111 MILLION ACRES COULD BE CONVERTED—The United States has 111 million acres of land not now in crops that could be converted to cropland if needed, according to a new study by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA. The acreage, which has either a "high" or "medium" potential for conversion to crops, is roughly equivalent to the total U.S. acreage planted to corn, oats, and sorghum last year. About two million acres of farmland are being lost each year to urban buildup. Total acres planted in all crops last year totaled 400 million.

NON-SURGICAL OVA TRANSFER NOW POSSIBLE—International Cryo-Biological Services, Inc., a St. Paul-based company that pioneered American commercial ova transfer three years ago, has released a status report on the results of non-surgical "collections." The new technique involves collecting up to 20 fertilized eggs at a time from a high value donor cow, without surgical procedures. No incision is made, no anesthesia is required, and the cow suffers no permanent ill effects. The fertilized eggs are transferred surgically to low-value recipient cows, to eventually become a "crop of calves" with the donor cow's characteristics. ICBS has performed nearly 100 donor collections non-surgically. Seventy percent resulted in pregnancies.

FARM MACHINERY, 1976—This year, producers will continue buying larger and more sophisticated farm equipment but unit sales may fall off somewhat. USDA economists expect sales of two-wheel tractors to drop 4 percent while sales of the four-wheel variety to climb by the same amount. Combines and hay balers will likely sell at a lower clip than in 1975, but cornheads and forage harvesters are expected to ring up bigger sales. Purchases also reflect farmers' interest in large round balers.

TOP EXPORTERS—It was another nip and tuck year, but when the ledgers closed, Illinois had nosed out Iowa to again be the top farm exporter in fiscal year 1975. Together Illinois and Iowa provided about a third of all feed grain shipments and about a third of the soybeans sent abroad. Because of its bumper wheat crop, Kansas placed third. Fourth place went to Texas and California came in fifth. U.S. total exports were valued at $21.6 billion.

NEW MODEL FOR HOLSTEIN BREED—A new portrait depicting the ideal mature Holstein cow has been approved by the directors of Holstein-Friesian Association of America. The ideal milking female portrays an animal seven to eight years old in her fifth or sixth lactation, approximately 120 days in milk, standing 58 inches at the withers and weighing approximately 1,600 pounds, milking more than 100 pounds of milk a day. The portrait serves as the model for HFAA's descriptive type classification program which compares individual animals with an ideal. Reproductions of the portrait are available from HFAA. Small sized color prints are available free. Large color posters are $1 from The Holstein-Friesian Association of America, Box 808, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301.

If you're looking for the best tractor tire price you can find, read this:

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From the Mailbag

Readers Report

Croghan, New York

I have received your check for second place in the Bicentennial essay contest.

I am proud to be a member of FFA.

Myrna J. Yancey

Kinsman, Illinois

I was very interested in the article on rodeo schools. Is it possible for you to send me full addresses on some of the schools? I would like to write and get more information so I could apply for summer enrollment.

Marlene Persinger

The best source of addresses for current and upcoming rodeo schools is probably contained in *Rodeo Sports News*, published by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Inc., which is printed twice each month.—Ed.

Madison, Wisconsin

For use in a job-orientation class I teach to post-secondary animal technician students at our college, may I have your permission to duplicate and distribute copies of your one page article "Employers Ask These Questions About Vocational Students." The article would be offset duplicated, distributed and discussed by the 45 students which will be enrolled in the class. It covers the points I want stressed very well.

Daniel W. Scheid
Madison Area Technical College
Agribusiness Division

Augusta, Maine

We have received the back copies you sent and would like permission to reprint two additional articles. They are "Potatoes Are His Maine Objective" in the December-January issue and "Colebrook Taps the Sap" in the February-March issue. These present young people involved in environmentally-related activities and we would like to give them wider distribution through the lending library packets of the Forum.

Patricia Goodridge
Maine Environmental Education Forum
State Library

Lackawanna, Pennsylvania

I noticed in the article "The Farmer's Revolution" in June-July that "of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 14 were farmers." The article went on to name them.

On the back cover of the same magazine in an advertisement it says that "more than half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were farmers." Could you please tell which is true? Also, in your article, it stated Richard Henry Lee was a farmer, but on the back cover, he was not included.

Patricia Allison

It looks like you've uncovered contradictory material. But the article you mentioned was prepared by the USDA news service, a reliable source for information and the advertisement came from The Sperry New Holland Company, a very reputable organization.

The contradiction apparently comes from each of the organization's definition of "farmer." Some of the signers were land holders or overseers of farming operations. Others may have grown up as sons of farmers, then moved into the business world in later years. Looks like 14 may have been borderline cases (including Richard Henry Lee).—Ed.

Niles, Michigan

We learned of our third place tie in the Bicentennial theme contest you sponsored during the second week in June (when we returned from the FFA Washington, D.C. Conference) when at midnight Mom came running into our room to awaken us and tell us the news! Thank you very much for the honor and for the gift certificates. We plan to give one of the gift certificates to our Niles Chapter for supplies needed.

Bruce Foster and Scott Foster

New York, New York

In your article of colleges with undergraduate majors in agriculture you state "The Ohio State University is the only institution in Ohio that offers a baccalaureate degree in agriculture."

Wilmington College, a small private college located in Wilmington, Ohio, and founded in 1875 by the Society of Friends, also offers an excellent program, and major, in agriculture. I myself am a graduate of Wilmington.

Lucy Y. Steinitz
City University of New York

Pullman, Washington

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this issue and took particular note of your stories on "Zuni: Ancient City—Proud People" and "Seventeen Years of Sickle Time."

We have recently been struggling with the problem of providing some special education courses for Indians in Northeastern Washington. I find that the problem is very complex; we don't seem to have the answers. As I read your article on the Zuni tribe and noted their response to the FFA projects, it occurred to me that this ought to be a very effective way to help get the Indians involved in education and in modern agriculture. No doubt, there have been many experiments along this line. Perhaps, successful projects such as the one you have described here will point the way to future successes for the Indians. I surely hope so.

B. R. Bertramson, Director
Resident Instruction
Washington State University

Ganderville, West Virginia

My brother Scott is a subscriber. Not only does he enjoy reading it, but every member of the family does.

Beverly Zurface

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Purdue University
South Dakota State University
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Call to National FFA Convention

Bobby Tucker, National FFA President

Fellow FFA Members:

By the power vested in me as President of the Future Farmers of America, I am pleased to issue the call for all chapters in good standing to send representatives to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, November 9-12, in the Municipal Auditorium. The 49th Annual Convention will crown a year of accomplishments by our members and will initiate next year's achievements.

This year's convention promises to be the most successful yet. As the largest youth convention, we will be attracting national leaders to our stage along with award winners, degree recipients, Foundation sponsors and other VIP's.

The convention has again been moved forward one day to schedule an official business session on Tuesday afternoon, November 9, to give greater flexibility to the program and shorten the convention sessions. The national officers will conduct a Vespers Program on Tuesday evening, before officially opening the convention on Wednesday morning. Each session will be filled with the sharing of thoughts, official FFA business, ceremonies, recognition of achievements, and showing of sincere appreciation to those who support Agricultural Education/FFA, especially through the National FFA Foundation.

It is a time of special pageantry with the "Stars Over America," and the Auditorium will be filled with music provided by the National FFA Chorus and the National FFA Band, as over 20,000 members and friends look on.

I encourage members from each chapter to participate in all sessions, visit the Agricultural Career Show and the FFA Day at the American Royal. In addition to six chapter representatives or 10 percent of the chapter membership, each State Association is also entitled to have its official delegates and award winners in attendance.

The fine image of our organization has been portrayed in the past at every convention. I have faith that if the rules of proper dress and the Code of Ethics are observed by all members while in Kansas City, our image shall contine in its finest tradition.

Help make the 49th National FFA Convention the most educational, inspirational and successful yet. I'll see you in November.

Sincerely,
Bobby Tucker
National FFA President

Agriculture Loses a Leader

Jerry Litton

THE news was shocking! One of the most promising young leaders in America and one of the very few political leaders with a background in agriculture had died in a plane crash that also took the lives of his wife Sherri and their two children.

Jerry Litton, 39, from Chillicothe, Missouri, came up through the FFA to become a national FFA public speaking finalist, National Secretary 1956-57 and to receive the FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement award in 1974. His achievements were many outside the FFA as well. Most recently he was one of the founders of the Agricultural Council of America, an organization that works to close the gap between the producer and consumer.

Starting from a modest beginning, while Jerry was still in the FFA, he and his father Charlie Litton, became breeders of Charolais cattle and developed one of the top herds in the nation. When the ranch was sold in 1973, it brought over $3 million.

A fluent speaker with a keen interest in politics, Jerry seemed destined for high political office. At the age of 35, he was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1972. When he was appointed to the House Agricultural Committee, he sold his farm to "avoid any possible conflict of interest." The day of his death, he had won his greatest political achievement upsetting two formidable opponents for the Democratic nomination to the Senate. The crash occurred when they took off in a private plane from the Chillicothe airport to fly to Kansas City for a victory celebration.

To perpetuate his memory in the organization he loved so much, the FFA has established a memorial fund in his name. FFA members, chapters or state associations wishing to contribute may send their contributions to: The National FFA Foundation, Inc., Attention Development Fund, P.O. Box 5117, Madison, Wisconsin 53705. Please enclose a note saying the contribution is for the Jerry Litton Memorial Fund.

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Framed by rows of ferns which represent the heart of their family business, the Lommerse family poses for this picture, inside one of their sixteen greenhouses.

The Fern Factory

MAYBE it started with the discovery that plants would respond to people. You know, whisper sweet nothings to your favorite philodendron and watch while it turns a deeper shade of green and grows like mad.

Whatever the reason, the plant boom struck this country like an infectious disease with leaves. Every apartment has become a veritable garden and every home looks like it might be housing its own Tarzan and Jane.

Two FFA members in Florida have been part of the movement, only some of the green they induce with their gentle coaxing has been the kind with Presidential faces staring back.

Virginia and Frances Lommerse, members of the Seminole FFA Chapter in Sanford, Florida, are working ingredients in the Dutch Mill Nursery, a family operated greenhouse and nursery producing for the most part, plants for the home. Sixteen greenhouses encompass over 40,000 square feet of growing space. Two of the houses were built this year.

Virginia, who graduated from high school in 1975 and Frances, a 1976 graduate based their successful applications for the Florida FFA State Farmer degree on their involvement in the greenhouse business.

Frances described their early introduction to the business. "We began going along with our parents as soon as we could walk. They had started a custom yard care business in 1957 after my father moved here from Holland in 1948. We've grown up with the horticulture business."

Nine of the nursery's greenhouses are for growing ferns, two others are for basket plants, and the rest house hanging baskets of wandering jews, spider plants, and three-gallon pots of schefflera and ferns. On a normal day, the nursery's inventory will consist of 17,000 six-inch pots of ferns and another 5,000 eight-inch hanging baskets of ferns. Bedding plants include petunias, marigolds and snapdragons, and numerous vegetables—a carry over from the early days of the business.

All plants from the Dutch Mill Nursery, which was founded by Mr. John Lommerse, the girls' father in 1961 with one bench of annuals, are wholesaled to area retailers. An eight-inch hanging basket for example, will be sold to the retailer for $2.50 who in turn may charge his retail customers between $3.50 and $5.00.

Both girls work for hourly wages and like a majority of agricultural businesses there are plenty of hours required. The two girls, their parents, and a younger brother and sister work as an assembly line in potting their replacement plants. One person will fill 3½-inch pots with soil mix, the next will lay the young fern plant (cut from runners) on the soil, the third person will plant the cutting properly, the fourth sorts the trays by plant size and the last link in the human chain will wheel a buggy full of plants to the greenhouse.

The plants normally take six to eight weeks to reach maturity. They are then transferred to six-inch pots where they grow for another six to eight weeks before being sold. At least once each week the crew assembles to pot 1,000 plants or more.

The family takes special pride in the appearance of their business and goes to extra lengths to produce a quality product. Although protecting the plants during the winter has been made easier through the use of gas heat (which replaced smudge pots), watering of the plants is still done by hand. "Automatic watering is too inconsistent," claims Mr. Lommerse, exhibiting the attitude that is also evidenced in the cleanliness and neatness of the greenhouse and benches.

Along with the special watering, the plants are fertilized twice each week. During the winter the houses are heated to beween 45 and 55 degrees while in the summer the sides are taken off to allow the houses to cool.

Demand for ferns and hanging baskets, which exploded two years ago, has resulted in the nursery shifting to mostly ferns. "Ferns are really suited for apartments, condominiums and backyards," claims Virginia. "They are cheaper than furniture and the owner can watch them grow. Sure it started as a fad, but I think it's one that will stay. People are just starting to realize the potential for plants."

Although nearby Apopka, Florida, is considered the foliage capital of the world and horticulture has been taught at Sanford's Seminole High School for the last 25 years, Virginia says being the first girls to join their FFA chapter posed some problems.

"The boys really weren't ready for a girl in FFA. They couldn't accept a girl getting her hands dirty."

But soon the girls proved they were serious about agriculture and FFA. Both served as chapter officers for four years, Virginia as secretary three years and reporter one year. Frances was secretary for one year and treasurer for three. They also participated on the FFA horticulture team, forestry team, parliamentary procedure team and took part in public speaking contests.

Now that both girls have graduated, their future plans center around the horticulture business. Last year while attending a local community college, Virginia continued to work at home during the days, going to school during the evening, including classes in ornamental horticulture. Both girls plan to apply for their American Farmer degrees.

The Lommerse sisters agree the last few years have been boom years in the nursery business. The future looks brighter. And even if the inconceivable happened and the business were to experience a momentary slump, Virginia and Frances are secure knowing they would have thousands of little green shoulders to cry on.

Virginia learns greenhouse skills from her father, who is head of the business.

Frances prepared the soil mixture used in potting new plants. Both girls know the activities involved with the business and plan to stay within the industry.

Star Agribusinessman of America

SOUTHERN REGION

Interest, dedication and hard work made the difference for Tony Pollard, the Southern Region nominee for the FFA Star Agribusinessman of America award.

The 22-year-old aspiring agribusinessman is part-owner of a successful grist mill and purebred hog operation in Hartford, Alabama.

Tony didn't wait until graduation from Geneva County High School to pursue his ambitions. Two years before graduating, he was employed at the grist mill where his main responsibilities were bagging and tying meal for shipment. He soon learned about mill operation, maintenance, and motor regulation.

But Tony was not content to stop there. During his junior year of high school, he elected to broaden his experience even more, and started working for a purebred hog breeder.

It didn't take Tony long to appreciate the value of owning part of the business. "As part owner I have more responsibility and take more interest in my work. Now it doesn't seem quite so bad to sit up until two o'clock in the morning with a pregnant sow."

"Tony's success comes not only from his versatility, but also from his desire to excel in everything he does," says his vocational agriculture instructor Paul C. Dean. Improvements are the key to his success in management.

Since he's taken over the mill management, business has really grown. The new mill is fully automatic, and sales are projected to reach one million pounds of meal this year.

On the purebred hog farm, Tony has constructed boar testing facilities to secure information which is demanded by his consumers and by his customers.

Aided by his wife Paula he maintains detailed records of the feed consumed in each pen, so he can provide customers information on feed efficiency, growth rate and conformation.

"Patience and love for this work are the two main requirements for a future in the hog breeding business," Tony says.

WESTERN REGION

Wade Christensen's first farm chore was operating a "crazy stick," better known as a weed hoe. Since then, his desire to expand his farming knowledge has never diminished.

The 21-year-old Thomas, Oklahoma, farmer and businessman is the Western Region nominee for the FFA Star Agribusinessman of America award. The son of Mr. and Mrs. James Christensen, Wade attended Thomas High School where his FFA advisor was Kent Pennington.

When Wade was 12 years old, his father gave him the chance he had been waiting for—to run a combine. When he entered high school, Wade expanded his farming operation. In order to purchase farm fertilizer at a better price, his father started a custom fertilizing business. It was Wade's job to load the fertilizer, spread it and make billings and collections.

Sales began to pay off, and the closely-knit family also started a cattle feeder sales operation, which soon blossomed into a three-state distributorship. "Although this business began with the purchase of five small feeders, it has grown enough so that sales were well over one million dollars in 1974 and 1975," Wade says.

In conjunction with the family farming operation, an Allis-Chalmers and Massey-Ferguson implement agency was formed by the family in their hometown. "This has worked very well both as a source and disposition of machinery for our farming operation," Wade says.

The farming expansion means more work for Wade, but the dedicated young farmer seems to thrive on competition and challenges. "Since our volume of business has expanded considerably in the past two years, our need for timely control over finances and up-to-date accounting procedures has become increasingly important," he says. "It is part of my responsibility to work with our accountants and my dad in providing the necessary financial information."

Wade's diverse experience in sales and farm management has been an important factor in the success of the agribusiness enterprises. He makes no bones about it—he intends to continue expanding his total farm operation and knows what is necessary for success.

EASTERN REGION

Lynn Groff has taken advantage of every learning experience that has come his way, and today, the energetic young man from Ephrata, Pennsylvania, is reaping the benefits.

Lynn, who is the Eastern Region nominee for the FFA Star Agribusinessman of America award, is the product department group leader of Victor Weaver, Inc., a poultry and egg processing plant.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Groff, Lynn never lived on a farm, largely because of the high cost of land in Lancaster County. But his FFA and vocational agriculture training under Clifford Day provided him with opportunities to expand his knowledge in

1 Dennis Weis
Central Region, Wisconsin
Green Bay East FFA Chapter

2 Wade Christensen
Western Region, Oklahoma
Thomas FFA Chapter

3 Lynn Ray Groff
Eastern Region, Pennsylvania
Grassland FFA Chapter

4 Tony Pollard
Southern Region, Alabama
Hartford FFA Chapter

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a variety of agricultural-related industries.

Immediately after graduating from Garden Spot High School, Lynn was employed at Weaver's as a group leader in the slicing department. Since then, through hard work and dedication, he has moved up in the organization.

Weaver's started as a small business processing 200 birds a week. Today, the company processes more than 70,000 birds a day, employs more than 1,000 persons and distributes its products across the nation and overseas.

Lynn's employers took notice of his work. He was offered the position of product development technician, which required developing new products and equipment.

After working for a year and a half as development technician, Lynn again was offered a promotion, this time as department group leader. Again, he was given more responsibilities.

"This job requires working with sales and marketing very closely," he says. "You need to learn what the consumer wants and develop products along those lines."

"In my work, we are always trying new products," he adds. "It's my responsibility to get production started and keep a close watch on the quality. Trying to solve the problems that arise with a new product is a constant challenge in my job. Breakdowns must be kept at a minimum to keep all operations flowing smoothly."

CENTRAL REGION

As a 15-year-old farm boy moving to the city of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Dennis Weis was surprised to find that his new school had a vocational agribusiness program. Although his family left a 340-acre dairy farm, young Weis didn't lose his interest in agriculture. He signed up for the agriculture course at Green Bay East during his freshman year and began his agribusiness program.

Recently the successful young agricultural mechanic was named Central Region Star Agribusinessman of America. It is an honor which is well deserved according to his vocational agriculture instructor Don C. Leibelt.

During the first year of his vocational agriculture program Weis worked on a dairy farm caring for the livestock, assisting in planting and harvesting crops. During his junior year, Weis worked as a small engine mechanic for a local business and began tackling larger jobs such as gasoline and diesel engine repair.

With this background in mechanics, Weis didn't have any trouble finding a job after high school graduation. He finally accepted a job at the Larsen Canning Company of Green Bay, Wisconsin. "I immediately began operating bean and sweet corn harvesters, to gain knowledge of this equipment," Weis recalls.

Not long after he began work for the company one of the field mechanics was promoted to field supervisor and Weis moved up to the field mechanic slot. Now he is responsible for the repair and maintenance of all the bean harvesting equipment. "I'm on the job as high as 80 hours a week during the peak bean harvest season," says Weis.

Recently Weis was selected as a member of the safety committee in the main processing plant. "Once a month five of us completely inspect the entire plant and seek out violations of the OSHA laws," Weis explains.

Dennis is married and he and wife Debra have a two-year-old daughter.

1 Dwight Williams
Eastern Region, Ohio
Elgin FFA Chapter

2 Douglas Bromiley
Western Region, Washington
Eastmont FFA Chapter

3 Timothy Amdahl
Central Region, South Dakota
Flandreau FFA Chapter

4 Roger Meadows
Southern Region, Tennessee
Dyersburg FFA Chapter

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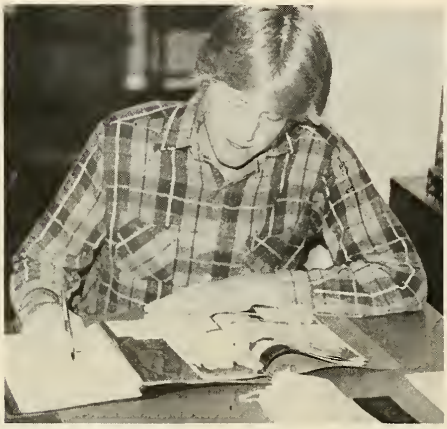

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EASTERN REGION

Dwight Williams has come a long way since age nine when his father, following a family custom, gave him a Holstein heifer calf. Several years later, Dwight's farming career was well on its way with the addition of one acre of farmland, again courtesy of his father.

Today, working in a partnership with his father and older brother, Dwight's career has spiraled into an 876-acre farm operation with a dairy herd that numbers 103 producing cows, 46 heifers, 6 bulls, 35 steers and 57 calves.

The 22-year-old Prospect, Ohio, dairyman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Williams, is the Eastern Region nominee for the Future Farmers of America Star American Farmer award.

Through his vocational agriculture training, he realized the importance of dedication and hard work. He devoted as much time as he could to learning about all facets of farm management, while continuing to increase his acreage and dairy herd. Dwight also tackled other projects, including tractor overhauls, electrical wiring, basement insulation and building new fences.

By the end of Dwight's first year in vocational agriculture, he owned a cow, a heifer and a calf. By the fourth year, his family-operated farm started a second dairy herd, which Dwight was to manage.

Dwight is proud of the job he's done on the farm. While his dairy herd continues to increase, so does the herd's milk production, a tribute to the young dairyman's devotion. In a year's time, his dairy herd production increased to an average of 17,402 pounds of milk and 642 pounds of butterfat, up from 13,528 pounds and 472 pounds, respectively.

The family's top cow has produced a record 25,000 pounds of milk and 900 pounds of butterfat in 305 days. Dwight has another prospect which he thinks just might break that record.

Dwight's dedication and determination to succeed have not gone unnoticed. Lowell Hedges, his vocational agriculture instructor, says that Dwight has the "skills, competence and managerial abilities necessary to successfully attain his vocational objective—becoming a very efficient dairy and crop farmer."

CENTRAL REGION

Timothy Amdahl's registered Angus breeding operation is thriving and the future looks even brighter.

The 21-year-old Flandreau, South Dakota, breeder has only been working since 1972, but already he is involved in all aspects of the breeding business and has plans for expansion.

Named the Central Region nominee for the Future Farmers of America Star American Farmer award, Timothy believes in quality. "I have plans for building a herd of cattle that will produce bulls and heifers for registered breeders for the show ring," he says. "I try to combine performance and showing quality."

Star Farmer of America

The aspiring young Angus breeder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Amdahl, is continually searching for methods to upgrade his operation. His meat supplying business, little over a year old, has been so successful that he's received out of state orders.

Timothy's search for quality animals has taken him as far as Canada looking for the right cattle. One bull, shown at the National Angus Futurity in Louisville, Kentucky, and the National Angus Show in Des Moines, Iowa, stood 51½ inches tall at 9½ months.

Timothy owns 450 acres which he uses to grow alfalfa, fertilized pasture and hay—all crops that will improve his herd. In addition to 66 commercial cows and 18 bulls, his registered Angus herd numbers 156.

Timothy likes to keep abreast of innovative methods. He uses artificial insemination to give him more control over the quality of his herd. "I feel that through artificial insemination I can use the best bulls available at the minimum cost," he explains.

Timothy's vocational agriculture instructor Myron Eighmy taught him the value of keeping up with the latest developments in the cattle business.

He attended South Dakota State University for two semesters, but returned to the farm when his responsibilities increased to calving a 160-head herd.

SOUTHERN REGION

A diversified crop and livestock farm is the base of operations for Roger Meadows, the 20-year-old Future Farmer from Halls, Tennessee, named Star American Farmer nominee of the FFA's Southern Region. For Roger, the recognition is the outgrowth of an interest in farming that began in his words "as soon as I was able to walk and follow my father over our home farm."

When he was ten, Meadows started some row crops and later purchased his first Yorkshire hogs. In 1967 he met Benny Moore, the "new" vocational agriculture teacher at Dyersburg High School. Moore assisted Roger in showing a barrow at the West Tennessee Barrow Show and made a lasting impression on the young man. "I told Mr. Moore I wanted to enroll in vocational agriculture and be involved in the FFA," recalls Meadows, "and he encouraged me to continue building a farming program so I could get involved in FFA activities as soon as I entered high school."

During his freshman year in vocational agriculture, Meadows' farming program included registered Yorkshires, cotton, soybeans, and poultry. By the time he was graduated from high school Meadows had 8 sows, 8 acres of cotton, 15 acres of soybeans and one-half acre of bell peppers.

After graduation from high school Meadows took advantage of a scholarship from the Dyersburg Production Credit Association, and enrolled in the University of Tennessee. But he missed the farm and "after several sleepless nights" gave up the scholarship to return home where he established a 50-50 partnership with his father.

Farming full time now, Meadows was married last August and he and his wife Tina live in a new home just two miles from the farm. Working full time with his father last year Roger harvested 140 acres of wheat, 540 acres of soybeans and 85 acres of cotton on a 50-50 partnership basis. He is also expanding his hog breeding and feeding enterprise and maintains 11-15 head of beef cattle.

WESTERN REGION

For years Doug Bromiley of East Wenatchee, Washington, looked forward to the day when he could follow in the footsteps of his brothers and enroll in vocational agriculture and the FFA. "I suppose having two brothers already involved in FFA had some influence on my thinking," says the 21-year-old Western Region nominee for the Future Farmers of America Star American Farmer award.

Getting on with the business of farming is just what Bromiley has been doing for the last seven years since enrolling in vocational agriculture at Eastmont High School. Through a process of continual expansion and aggressive management, Bromiley now has a one-fourth interest in a partnership farming operation with his brothers and mother Mrs. Noreen Daling.

A tragic accident took the life of his father in 1967. When the estate was settled, Doug, his brothers, and mother all shared in the estate. "Our only concern was holding on to the farm and helping Mom so that the family could be kept together," says Bromiley.

As a result of their hard work and determination, Doug and his brothers are well known in the farm community as top-notch farmers. This reputation helped them obtain several hundred additional acres of rented ground in recent years.

During his first four years in vocational agriculture and prior to the formation of the four-way family partnership, Bromiley maintained his own farming operation. As a freshman in high school he raised 16 acres of wheat, 5 head of cattle and 3 horses. Today he has a one-third interest in 128 beef cows, 5 bulls, and 100 steers on feed, and one-fourth interest in over 5,000 acres of wheat.

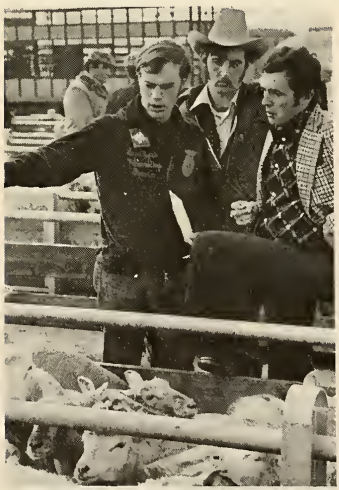
According to his vocational agriculture instructor Arthur W. Heideman, Doug's farming practices are up to date in both equipment and conservation. "The fields are weed free and fertilized. The summer fallow has excellent mulch that holds moisture during the summer and protects against wind, rain, and winter run-off," says Heideman.

A LOOK AT FRENCH BEEF & SHEEP

By Dan Reuwee

Christian De Mon Brison, the CoFRANIMEX representative for the Blonde d' Aquitaine breed and our host in Southern France, points out some of the strong characteristics of this "Blonde" to Brad Meyers and Terry Bullis. The farmhouse and barn combination in the background is very typical in France.

THE orange tile roofs on gray stone buildings stood out against the sky as we sped along on the comfortable passenger train. We had been awake for over 30 hours, but we didn't want to sleep now as our train headed south out of Paris into the heart of French farm country. It was spring and farmers in France, like those back in the U.S., were in the fields getting ready for the planting season.



Brad and Terry discuss the French livestock marketing system with a member of France's Young Charolais Breeders.

We watched the countryside roll by thinking about the adventure that lay ahead. It was our first visit to France. We were somewhat apprehensive. We didn't speak French and we weren't at all sure what was in store for us. But our French hosts soon made us feel right at home.

Three of us were traveling on a three-week tour of French beef and sheep farms. A livestock import/export cooperative, CoFRANIMEX, sponsored the educational travel program for Terry Bullis, of Mariposa, California, 1975 winner of the National FFA Beef Production Proficiency award and Brad Meyers of Renville, Minnesota, winner of the National FFA Sheep Production Proficiency award. As director of information for the National FFA Organization, it was my job to photograph the trip and provide written and taped reports to news media.

It took us nearly seven hours by train to reach our first destination, the small French town of Agen, home of the Blonde d' Aquitaine Herdbook (breed association). Beef is a mainstay in the French diet and at the hotel that night we had our first sampling of French beefsteaks. From our French hosts we learned that in France consumers prefer lean beef as compared to the U.S. preference for more fat and marbling. With this knowledge, we were better able to understand French livestock farming practices as we visited with French breeders.

Traveling by car the next day we visited Blonde d' Aquitaine cattle breeders and began learning how French farmers produce the lean beef desired by their countrymen. The "Blondes" are a large breed of cattle. Like other French breeds they were once used as draft animals and show considerable muscling in the hindquarters.

As we traveled visiting with farmers and researchers we became more aware of some differences in French and U.S. cattle production practices. "The larger breeds of cattle in France produce a leaner carcass because of their later maturity," explains Terry also noting that French feeding programs are also different. "In the U.S. we feed cattle on grass until they weigh around 700 pounds, then we put them in a feedlot and give them large amounts of high concentrate to hasten growth and to finish. But in France, farmers feed their cattle on grain early to get a fast rate of growth, then finish on grass to make them lean."

Our travels included visits to an artificial breeding cooperative, beef research farms and side trips to some old French castles and a hunting lodge. The French cattle breeding research program is indeed impressive, says Brad, noting that a regular weighing program operated by the government helps farmers maintain accurate records on rate of gain from birth to market. Participation in the program is required for registering cattle.

After four days in southern France, we again boarded the train and traveled to Paris for a week at the Paris Agricultural and Livestock Show. One of the largest agricultural shows in Europe,

(Continued on Page 66)

The good ol' boys have got even more .22 ideas than the big boys.

22 Short Mini Cap
22 Short Solid Point
22 Short Hollow Point
.22 Short Target
22 Long Solid Point
.22 Long Rifle Solid Point Standard Velocity
22 Long Rifle Solid Point High Velocity
22 Long Rifle Hollow Point High Velocity
.22 Long Mini Cap
.22 Long Rifle Shotshell
22 Magnum Solid Point
22 Magnum Hollow Point
22 Magnum Shotshell

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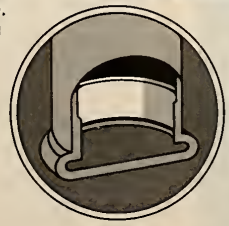
As you might expect, they've also got some pretty definite ideas on how rimfire ammo should be made. Like reinforcing each case head with an inner-belt for added strength in this critical area.



And, like coating the bullet with a hard lubricant instead of the soft, gummy kind that rubs off all too easily. On your hands and in your gun.

Of course, better product ideas call for better package ideas. So back in '70 the good ol' boys brought out the first plastic pack to replace cardboard boxes. At the time, the big boys just laughed. Today, they're using identical packages.

So if you're the type who likes the idea of wallop and accuracy in .22 ammo, try going a few rounds with the good ol' boys.

As one of them jokingly put it, "Our .22's are so great, maybe we ought to call 'em .23's."

Sporting Equipment Division

OMARK INDUSTRIES

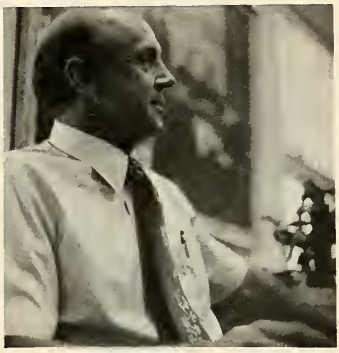
FFA Alumni — On Course

THE National FFA Alumni Association will begin its fifth year of service in May of 1977. The organization has experienced what many feel is an excellent beginning in forming the support arm to the main body of FFA members and their training program for careers in agriculture. Four members of the National Alumni Council comment on the first four years of Alumni.

Is the National FFA Alumni Association meeting its original goals?

Mr. Richard Waybright—National Chairman of the Alumni Council.

"During the first four years we have gotten a lot of affiliates started. They are now coming into their own and are



Mr. Waybright

going to make a tremendous impact on FFA members across the country. Wherever we get a good affiliate started it seems like it kind of blossoms out from there. This kind of thing is really going to perpetuate itself."

How do you think the National FFA Alumni Association is progressing?

Mr. Robert Cox—National Alumni Administrative Secretary.

"From looking at the history of the FFA and the history of the Alumni Association, the same things can be said. In some states it's low in membership and in some it has moved faster than we expected.

"From what we can determine and from figures collected from the American Alumni Association, the FFA Alumni is the fastest growing alumni youth organization in the country, with an 80 percent growth rate."

Membership wise, how does Alumni growth compare with the original growth of the FFA?

Mr. Doering

Mr. Floyd Doering—Wisconsin State Supervisor of Agriculture Education.

"I've compared the first four years of FFA membership in our state, 1929 through 1933, with the first four years for FFA Alumni membership, 1972 through 1976. For FFA there were 1,856 members. For FFA Alumni there were comparable 1,800 members, so we're in almost exactly the same situation that FFA was in when it began."

Will this growth continue in the future?

Mr. Cox: "I think we're going to continue at the same growth rate, probably 3,000 to 4,000 new members per year is a realistic figure. I think we can point to one thing as a sign of a change in attitude, and that's the growth in life members. This year we doubled our projected goal of 150 new life members with 280 new life members. I see this trend continuing, people are interested in becoming life members, and if you put in $100 you are a believer. I'm seeing a lot of belief."

What is the biggest problem with recruiting new members or setting up new affiliates?

Mr. Horn

Mr. Terry Horn—Council member from Tennessee and charter member of the FFA.

"Our biggest problem has been that the vo-ag instructor resists the Alumni to begin with because he thinks that it is extra work. But when he finds out how much support he gets and the help he gets with the program after it gets rolling, we see a big turn around in their thinking. We have to get the teachers with successful alumni programs talking to other teachers."

What kind of influence does the FFA Alumni organization have in a community or state?

Mr. Waybright: "I think one thing that we don't want to forget about is that those who have come up through the ranks of the FFA and are now FFA Alumni members can be quite an influence in that local community to make sure that that local ag teacher gets his fair share of the support. In an organization with a membership that is substantial, this can be a powerful influence, as long as you use it for good, from a legislative standpoint and all the way down the line."

What is the main objective of the national office of the Alumni?

Mr. Cox

Mr. Cox: "The main thing is to be a catalyst to the local affiliates. It's got to be a grass roots organization. In recruiting new members we have the Legion of Merit Citations, we have the Outstanding Alumni Achievement award which I hope will branch down to the local so they can recognize an outstanding alumni member. We have the Outstanding Alumni Affiliate award to help emphasize and encourage affiliates to develop a good program of activities."

Do the purposes set for the Alumni four years ago still hold today?

Mr. Waybright: "The original concept of why the alumni was needed is still valid today, and will be even more so in the future—that being the support of the FFA and preparing young people for careers in agriculture. As agriculture gets broader and broader, the local ag teacher is going to need all the help he can possibly get. As a group with a potential of nearly 6 million former FFA members, it can have an effect on FFA. But it's the one-to-one basis of a former FFA member as an individual helping an active FFA member where the real good comes in."

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WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: Exploring New Careers

WHEN farm women talk about women's lib they often do so with a "so what" smile. Most wives and daughters of farmers have been liberated for years in regard to accepting a man's share of the responsibility for getting the farm work done.

Yet a few of the jobs in agriculture have held on to the image of "for men only." One of those jobs is in the area of livestock artificial insemination. But like those of male domination before, that skill, too, is finding women doing the job as well or better than their male counterparts.

Carol and Doreen Parker, FFA members of the Enterprise FFA Chapter, Enterprise, Oregon, are examples of the kind of progressive young women looking into this agricultural field. On their father's farm in the beautiful Wallowa Valley (the one made famous by Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians) they successfully bred the 250 head of cows in the family's herd last year, using the skills they learned through a five-day artificial insemination management school.

"They have taken almost complete responsibility for managing that aspect of the breeding program," says their father Mr. Dave Parker, a genetic engineer for the American Breeders Service, a nationally known supplier of cattle semen. "Their conception rate for the first year was 70 percent which is a good figure for any person in this business."

Because their father works as the local breeding service representative the Parker family's Highview Ranch can select semen from top bulls they feel will produce quality calves. Last year, semen from 27 different bulls was used from seven different beef breeds. Their favorite breeds are Limousin and Tarentaise.

Complete records are kept on all 250 calves. Over 100 of them are progeny tested, which means keeping breeding dates, birth dates and weights and weaning weights. That information is then put into the ABS computer record system at no cost to Parker's operation. "They get the information they want on their sires while we are improving our herd and calves through the system," notes Carol, who will be a senior this year and who took the A.I. management course at the age of 15.

One benefit from such selective breeding is the type of calves produced for area stock shows which Carol, Doreen, a sophomore, and their younger brother Jeff participate in. "Most of the good steers that are shown by our chapter members are products of artificial insemination," notes Dick Boucher, FFA advisor at Enterprise.

Winnings include Carol's Reserve Champion steer at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show (claimed to be the oldest stock show in the Northwest) and Doreen's Reserve Grand Champion Hereford female at the local county fair. "With the records we keep and by being with the animals every day, we can usually pick the type of calves the judges are looking for," says Carol, who was on the FFA team that won first place in livestock judging at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. The contest annually attracts over 100 competing teams.

The Parkers, who try to demonstrate to the community the advantages of breeding artificially, pay particular attention to the details of their management program. According to Carol, the period for artificial breeding lasts seven weeks during which a cow might have to be bred three times to insure conception. Following that period, the cows are run with herd bulls for two additional weeks to eliminate the chances of a cow being left without calf.

"Of course there are a lot of techniques that are important to success with A.I.," says Doreen, "like the temperature of the semen before and during the actual insemination. And we are also very aware of the need to keep the cows as quiet as possible while bringing them into the barn and preparing them for insemination."

She continues, "Good feed is probably the most important factor in successful breeding, just as with pasture breeding. Proper nutrition is important to establish the correct heat cycle and to insure ovulation."

That kind of off-the-cuff discussion used to be privy to professors of animal science departments at the ivy clad universities where your chances were 20 to 1 against running into a bright eyed pretty co-ed like Carol or Doreen.

The Parker girls only wonder why it's taken so long for the so-called liberation to take place. "While we were growing up, my dad would hire high school boys to help run our farm," says Doreen. "Most of them received their FFA State Farmer degrees and some even the American Farmer degree through their work here. We just think by doing the same work it should work for us, too," she concludes.

Carol cautiously examines the AI equipment before each use. Attention to all details insures high conception rates.

Advisor Boucher helps Carol and Doreen select animals for future shows. Other FFA members often purchase steers that are products of an AI program.

When a boy is ready for his first shotgun, he's ready for a Winchester.

When you give a boy his first gun there's something that happens between the two of you. Maybe it's a sense of growing together or just having a good time. But what ever happens, you're making a lot of dreams come true. To him, it's a milestone, a sign of your trust and his maturity. So the gun should be as good as the things it's going to mean to the both of you.

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FFA STATE PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE

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"After looking at all these wonderful young people I have a greater and greater faith in the future of this country . . ." Gerald R. Ford.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Photo by Tom Waldinger

WASHINGTON, D.C. in a Bicentennial year. That in itself can create excitement. Include a visit with the President of the United States, a question and answer session with the Secretary of Agriculture, breakfast with your own state's Senators and Congressmen, and a meeting with the yet to be named Vice-Presidential nominee for the Republican Party—and for 80 state FFA officers you have a week that would be hard for any travel agent to match, even on his best of days.

Those were the highlights of this year's annual State Presidents' Conference, held in July. The week-long conference, sponsored by General Motors Corporation through the National FFA Foundation, Inc. is held each year to help new state officers be more effective leaders by giving them firsthand knowledge of the National FFA Organization and national agricultural issues.

In brief remarks to FFA leaders assembled on the White House lawn President Ford expressed his belief in the family structure and in the importance of the family farm. "The family farm is important to this nation," said Ford emphasizing that "we must continue to have strong family farms."

The meeting with President Ford followed a breakfast on Capitol Hill for Congressmen and Senators from every state. One hundred and sixty Congressmen and Senators attended the breakfast and many more were represented by staff members. The breakfast, now in its ninth year, is an opportunity for state officers to visit informally with their elected representatives.

The week in Washington was opened by Senator (and now Vice-Presidential candidate) Robert Dole of Kansas. Dole discussed current agricultural legislation on the floor of the House and Senate. Later in a panel discussion on "Issues Facing the Industry of Agriculture," participants heard the views of people involved in Washington agricultural legislation. Participants on the panel included John Datt, director of the Washington office of the American Farm Bureau Federation; James T. Conner, Washington representative of Chemagro Chemical Company and Dr. Don Paarlberg, Director of Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Following a Tuesday morning of visits to Congressmen and Senators on Capitol Hill, the state presidents gathered at the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a special meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz who told the officers that as agriculture students they "represent a great industry."

Butz urged the FFA state officers to pursue their leadership goals. "The main product of rural America is the leadership potential for the future," he said, challenging them to "dream, try new ideas and not be afraid to break out of a rut."

There was great interest in the mid-week session on "Election Year Issues," since most of the state officers have only recently reached voting age. Guest speaker John Harms, editor of the *Kiplinger Business Letter* told the officers that the outcome of this election will have a lasting effect on them for the rest of their lives. He urged them to become politically active for the party of their choice and gave them some insights into the Washington political scene as well as some predictions on the '76 election.

Few cities in the nation offer better resources for discussions of citizenship and patriotism than Washington, D.C. The week's program included visits to all the famous monuments, Mount Vernon and a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The week concluded at a Bicentennial banquet hosted by General Motors and featuring an American buffet with foods from across the nation. The evening's program featured a Bicentennial sing-along.

An animated speaker, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, spoke to the officers for several minutes before opening up the discussion for questions and answers.

A National FFA Opinion Poll

OPINIONS in the fall of an election year are headline stuff.

Although FFA is a non-political organization, students working towards careers in agriculture are affected every day by the policies, regulations and national objectives for agriculture determined by governmental bodies. Today as never before, the farmers and agribusinessmen of this country need to recognize and understand the influences of politics.

With this in mind *The National FUTURE FARMER* polled 675 FFA members attending the seven Washington Leadership Conferences and the State Presidents' Conference also held in Washington, D.C. Some of the results you might find revealing.

1. Do you understand the present agricultural policy of the United States?

a) Thoroughly—2%; b) Fairly well—35%; c) Familiar but not knowledgeable—42%; d) Not too well—17%; e) Not at all—4%.

2. Do you think the present agricultural policy is

a) Too restrictive of farmers' freedom—26%; b) Adequate in serving the needs of farmers and the country—35%; c) Without adequate incentives and guarantees for the farmers—38%.

"The farmers have little control over the ultimate sale of their products and need to have more voice in international sales." . . . Mark Depta, Hubbardsville, New York.

"Many farmers still feel cheated when it comes to the middle man getting the majority of profit in today's market." . . . Mike Bradford, Scottsboro, Alabama.

3. Would you be willing to let the U.S. government stabilize farm prices received by setting up high floor prices for commodities and limiting the acreage farmers could plant to any specific crop?

a) Yes—14%; b) No—86%.

"A stabilization of farm prices would help the farmer by stopping the harmful fluctuation of prices. This policy was used during the depression and it put farmers back on their feet." . . . Merri Seaton, Turner, Oregon.

"I feel the best program would feature unlimited exports and let the law of supply and demand take over." . . . Harlin Unruh, Peabody, Kansas.

4. Do you think agriculture should continue to use more sophisticated machinery and increasing technology or would you prefer a return to the use of more animal and human labor?

a) More technology—88%; b) Return to labor intensive—12%.

"I think we could solve part of our unemployment problem by returning to hand labor." . . . James Goodrich, Rock River, Wyoming.

"With the world population climbing steadily, and most of the farmable land already in use, the only way to increase food production will be more and better use of technology." . . . Jeff Bump, St. Paul, Minnesota.

5. Do you think this country should assist developing countries by setting up a world food reserve?

a) Yes—73%; b) No—27%.

"The United States should help other countries develop agriculture production so that countries could sustain life without having to rely on a 'food bank.'" . . . Dawn Spielman, Baltic, Connecticut.

"It's hard to say no to starving people but a world food reserve should not be kept for influencing the market prices." . . . Greg Pierce, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

6. Are you in favor of fewer farmers with larger farms or more farmers with smaller farms?

a) Many and small—80%; b) Few and large—20%.

"Many small farms will insure the continuation of the competition of our free enterprise system and eliminate the possibility of monopolies." . . . Ken Johnson, Nacogdoches, Texas.

"I would like to see all of the young people who want to farm have that chance, but the smaller farms are going to have a harder time and won't be as efficient as the large farms." . . . Larry Brown, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

7. Are you in favor of legislation to allow bigger tax breaks for inheritors of family farms?

a) Yes—89%; b) No—11%.

"I feel this would encourage some people who inherit land to keep farming instead of selling the land to developers." . . . Mark Mummert, Dover, Pennsylvania.

8. Would you be in favor of the government creating a public agency to buy, lease, and sell land to young farmers getting started in farming?

a) Yes—89%; b) No—11%.

"I feel this would be a very good idea. It has been tried in Canada and succeeded so why shouldn't it work here?" . . . Ken Streiff, Roseau, Minnesota.

"No, I don't feel that the government should get their hands in the land market—it is messed up enough already. I would be in favor of low interest loans to young farmers." . . . Randy Luze, Dysart, Iowa.

9. What one thing will affect U.S. agriculture most in the next ten years?

a) World population growth—46%; b) Increasing technology—15%; c) World politics—17%; d) National (U.S.) politics—14%; e) Weather—7%.

10. If you could vote in this year's Presidential election which candidate would you vote (or have voted) for: (These figures were taken before, during and after the Presidential primaries and party conventions.)

Republicans—Ford—31%; Reagan—18%; Other—2%.

Democrats—Carter—35%; Brown—5%; Church—1%; Udall—2%; Wallace—4%; Other—1%.

"I'm not voting this year, but the next President will mean a lot to me. His decisions will affect my future." . . . Leslie Sutherland, Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii.

11. Please rate the performance of the current Secretary of Agriculture.

a) Excellent—6%; b) Good with some weak points—42%; c) Okay—29%; d) Poor but could be better—17%; e) Disastrous—5%.

"Farmers are such a diversified group that all could never be pleased by any one policy decision. Mr. Butz has done his best in a very controversial position." . . . Pete Thorpe, Salem, Oregon.

12. Who do you think will win the 1976 election?

a) Carter—60%; b) Ford—33%; c) Reagan—5%; d) Brown—1%; e) Other—1%.

13. Do you think farmers (U.S.) should be allowed to sell their products to foreign markets?

a) Yes—84%; b) No—16%.

If yes, should it be duty free (without export restrictions)?

a) Yes—43%; b) No—58%.

If no, should it be allowed with only non-communist countries?

a) Yes—46%; b) No—54%.

"Anybody who can eat should be a potential customer." . . . Kelly Grant, Bolivar, Missouri.

"The farmer should sell his product to the highest bidder. If the U.S. consumer doesn't want to pay a good price for food he can go without it for a time." . . . Clifford Blank, Parkesburg, Pennsylvania.

"Only after the U.S. food demand is met first. I think that is the American farmer's responsibility to feed his country first and the world second." . . . Mike Augustine, Rose Hill, Iowa.

14. Do you think we should allow foreign agricultural producers to sell their products to U.S. consumers?

a) Yes—68%; b) No—32%.

If yes, should they be required to pay import duties on these products so they are not in direct competition with domestic products?

a) Yes—81%; b) No—19%.

"Yes. That's free enterprise." . . . Monty Davis, Mulberry, Florida.

"Yes, but they should meet the same inspection standard as U.S. farmers." . . . Laurie Kane, East Fairfield, Vermont.

15. Should it be required that all U.S. farm products sold overseas be shipped on U.S. vessels?

a) Yes—43%; b) No—57%.

"I think this would just hinder our trade. If they buy, that's great. Keep organized labor out." . . . Mark Knobel, Fairbury, Nebraska.

16. Do you think more or fewer persons should have food stamps made available to them?

a) More—10%; b) Fewer—90%.

"People are taking advantage of the program. It needs more study." . . . Greg Pierce, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

"Striking workers should not be subsidized. Only people on the verge of hunger should get them." . . . Tom Fiegen, Garretson, South Dakota.

17. What one happening has affected agriculture the most in the last four years? (Those responding were not given multiple choices but offered their own answers.)

Inflation—123; The Russian wheat deal—108; Technology—67; The weather—45; Population increase—45; Foreign trade—32; National politics—24; Government controls—23.

"The surge of foreign trade has changed agriculture tremendously in the last few years." . . . Jay Dreibelbis, San Juan, Texas.

"The rise in so-called consumer advocate groups who win short term advantages for the consumer." . . . Pete Thorpe, Salem, Oregon.

FFA - Meeting the Challenge at Chinle

"THIS has to be one of the most beautiful spots in the world—like our own little Garden of Eden," says Arizona's only female agriculture teacher, as she muscles her pickup successfully through a sandy wash toward the gorge ahead. Brenda Oldfield is speaking of Canyon De Chelly (pronounced De Shay), a national monument which has given its name to the FFA chapter at Chinle, Arizona, where she teaches.

Located in the heart of the Navajo Indian Reservation, the canyon's walls stand like sentinels protecting fertile soil and bubbling springs. Evidence of ancient civilizations date back to the beginning of the Christian era. Abandoned cliff dwellings can still be viewed by interested tourists who receive special permission to enter the canyon.

Today, life in the canyon goes on much as it has for the last several hundred years. In March, after avoiding the canyon's bitter cold winter by moving to homes on the canyon rim, Navajo farmers and sheep herders enter the canyon. Through spring, summer and autumn they plant and harvest their corn, squash and watermelon, and tend their flocks of sheep and goats and herds of cattle. Life is simple. Hogans (the native adobe homes) are without electricity and running water.

Included among these farm families are members of the FFA. Since 1967 members of the Canyon De Chelly FFA Chapter, which has 90 percent Navajo membership, have been building and growing. Last year 89 members belonged to the chapter at Chinle High School.

Brenda and a second agriculture teacher, Tom Ewy, have found the students and their families eager to improve their agriculture. "Some teachers insist the Navajo people will not accept new ideas and it's worthless to try. But that's not true. They're no different than any other farmer. They want to learn new things and to improve their farming. They are always asking questions," says Brenda, displaying the respect she has for her students and their families.

The FFA program of Chinle is the center for a number of new ideas and experiments that keep the Indian students, stoic by nature, excited about the possibilities.

Adjacent to a new greenhouse that was rebuilt last year members planted new varieties of corn to compare to the native Navajo Indian variety. The plot was divided for experimentation with one-half of the corn non-fertilized and flood irrigated as is the custom on the Navajo farms. The other half was fertilized, treated with a herbicide, and irrigated by sprinkler to compare the two systems.

From the experiments at school, the interest in working with new ideas has radiated into the community. Students have taken home seeds for new crops—vegetables, melons, milo and corn—for testing in their home fields.

Oldfield says there is really no desire to change the Indian culture. "They'll never be big time farmers, it's not possible in this environment, but they can improve on their current operations."

That philosophy of improvement instead of change has resulted in 11 head of registered Rambouillet ewes being brought in and placed in native flocks to upgrade the quality of the Indian sheep flocks. The same had earlier been done with beef cattle and swine, working with Heifer Project International, a world organization whose goal is to improve the agricultural economy for minority groups.

Last spring another example of the new ideas being tested by the Chinle students took place. For decades the Indian families have sheared sheep by hand, averaging about two head per hour. The agricultural classes invited a local county agent in as guest instructor for two days. Immediately the class became the scene of a sheep shearing demonstration using electric clippers.

"At first the kids didn't want any part of it," according to Brenda. "Their sheep are the pride of their families and they were afraid of injuring an animal. After seeing it done they were satisfied that despite a few nicks, the animals were none the worse for wear."

Advisor Oldfield's method of teaching is by actually doing. Lessons in proper animal health care are given to vo-ag students on their own livestock. Current methods of animal health care are continuing to improve the quality of projects.

Hands-on experience is gained everywhere as the classroom becomes the stage for a shearing demonstration. Home visits on the reservation mean trips into the canyon where many FFA members live during summer months.

The school farm plot is the scene of various experimental plantings. Different types of crops and various varieties are tested. The final results are carefully observed so that members will know what crops will grow best on the reservation.

Once the students accepted the practice, it was on to the real thing. A generator was acquired, 120 head of sheep were rounded up, six sets of clippers were brought in and the work began. In one day as many sheep were sheared as normally would take a week.

The growing ag program at Chinle is progressing just as rapidly in the leadership areas as it is in the other fields of study. "At first the students were reluctant to leave home to compete—afraid they would be embarrassed by other schools that had had FFA for so many years," remembers Oldfield, "but after a few successful ventures at the district level they decided they could compete on a par with anybody and were eager to participate."

Last year for example, the chapter won their district Building Our American Communities program award, a project in which they planted a garden for the local school for the retarded. They also won the district FFA public information test. Chapter activities throughout the year included helping to sponsor four high school rodeos.

In 1974, the chapter sent delegates to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City for the first time.

Outsiders might consider the chapter an excellent example of progressive women's liberation. Last year they not only had the state's only woman ag teacher but 75 percent of the members were girls. Former chapter president Geraldine Begay says it wasn't always so. "Four years ago they wouldn't let girls into ag class. So a group of us got together and went to see the principal. We convinced him we belonged."

That enterprising attitude on the part of the girls is not out of character for the Navajo women. Much of the leadership and day-to-day labor has always been shared by the women of the tribe. Brenda says that might be part of the reason she was accepted as rapidly as she was in a typically male role.

The future of FFA at Chinle could seem about ready to take a step backward to the people who have seen the progress being made by Brenda Oldfield's students in the two years she has spent there. This fall, because of health problems within her own family, she will return to her native state of Kentucky to assist with the family farm. But she insists that from here on things should only get better for the Canyon De Chelly FFA—as a result of Navajo influence on their own culture.

She explains her reasoning. "Johnson Bia, a former student at Chinle is now at the University of Arizona majoring in agriculture education. He plans to come back and teach ag here. When he does he will do more for this ag program than any Anglo teacher ever could or will. Every FFA member, everybody at school respected Johnson. That's what's needed here."

Brenda Oldfield's belief in Navajo self determination is not unfounded. A nearby Navajo Agricultural Product Program at Shiprock, New Mexico, is putting 10,000 acres under irrigation using modern cropping practices and hiring Navajo workers. Eventually the project will bring 110,000 acres of new land under cultivation. It seems to be one more sign of things to come to improve agriculture in this area.

CAMERA READY

HERE'S a true story from your FFA Convention. It happened last year to at least a dozen victims. And the year before that and the year before that.

The circumstances brought on embarrassment, frustration and disappointment—all for some rather unnecessary reasons.

If you haven't by now figured what I'm talking about, it's those pictures. You know, the ones you were so eager to show your folks, your friends, your advisor and the local farm business that sponsored your trip to the Convention. You'd taken them to the drug store, waited five days and now you've ripped open the package to pull out—NOTHING! Or it might as well be nothing. The results in your hand wouldn't prove you'd even gotten on that plane. The ones of the Star Farmer might as well be of the back side of your barn at night. What went wrong?

Could it be you weren't ready? Let's look at some simple advice that just might save you from having a red face and at the same time help capture the excitement of your trip for years to come.

First, get to know your camera. If you've bought a new camera just for this occasion, better get your money's worth by learning how to make it work. Read the direction book that comes with it and shoot a practice roll or two under the conditions that you plan to face on your trip. Also ask the person at your local camera store what the best film will be to use under those conditions. The same rule applies when you borrow someone else's camera. Let them explain it to you, then test out their advice with some film before you ever leave town.

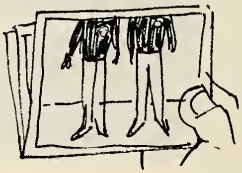
Second, learn the limitations. Certain cameras can only do certain things. And all cameras have their limitations. For example, most flash units will supply light up to a distance of about 20 feet. Any further than that and you're better off saving your money and buying some professional slides that usually are available. If a dime was collected for every flash wasted at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City since the first one was held in 1928, you could make someone a very rich man.

Third, think while you're shooting. With most cameras today, the procedure for getting good pictures has been simplified to a focus, aim and fire routine. Just about anyone can do that with some practice. So the next step is polish the procedure. One important practice is to hold the camera as steady as possible. If the subject is moving rapidly, make sure the shutter speed is set fast enough to stop any action. For cameras that do not manually adjust for shutter speed, you may need to pan with the movement of the subject. The action is similar to the swing of a shotgun when shooting clay pigeons.

Fourth, improve on your subject. A beginner's first instinct with a camera is to line up the subject (say it's your traveling friend) in front of a building, center him in the view finder, take one step back to make sure you've included all of him and the building in view and click off one shot. That's a good start. But remember people are more fun to look at when you can see their faces. Move in on your subject. Also look for vibrant colors. Reds, yellows and oranges make people stand out in your pictures. Now keep your subject busy. Lining people up is artificial and posed. Make it natural, and don't be afraid to take candid shots. Look too, for unusual angles, or attractive scenery that could add a new dimension to your slide show. Keep from shooting directly into the sun, or vice versa, having your subject suffer by looking directly into a bright sun. By turning your subject at a slight angle to the sun, the picture will add pleasant shadows, while saving your friend's eyes.

Fifth, use your imagination a little. You may be walking past some very good pictures that could help tell the story. For example, say you're going to the FFA Convention. Maybe you need a picture of your friends as they are loading the plane. Pictures out the window are nice but what about your friend who has fallen asleep beside you? Pictures that are unexpected add spice to a slide show.

Then you get to the Convention. You've taken a picture of the auditorium and even worked your way to the front of the stage for some formal pictures of the FFA President but there is much more. Include, perhaps, a shot of the thousands of people streaming out of the auditorium after the end of an afternoon session. To tell the whole story you might even want a picture of the "Welcome FFA" signs that appear



in the local stores. You've got the idea. Be on the lookout for those not so obvious pictures that will make your story complete. And don't be afraid to take more than one shot of any subject—just in case.

Sixth, decide the purpose of your mission. Just what will you do with those pictures? Decide that and the task becomes much simpler. If you will be expected by the chapter or a sponsoring organization to give a slide show on your return, you will need slide film. If you want pictures of the inside sessions, you will need a flash and you will sometime during the Convention need to work your way to the front of the stage. Be polite, but don't be bashful.

If, in fact, you intend to put together a scrapbook of your trip for display to family friends and Greenhands, then you'll want film for prints. The best bet, of course, (if your pocketbook will allow) is to buy equal amounts of both film types and alternate rolls. Remember this may be your one and only trip to an FFA Convention and you will want to remember it for a long time.

So don't wait until the night before your departure time. Plan ahead and practice up, it'll make your return home a whole lot less embarrassing.

A GOOD SECOND JOB CAN MAKE YOUR FIRST JOB EASIER TO FIND.

When you're fresh out of high school and looking for your first job, it's pretty hard to be a qualified applicant for anything.

So look into a good second job first. Enlist in the Army Reserve.

In a few months, the Army Reserve will teach you a skill and pay you while you're learning it. You'll then come home to a good-paying part-time job that takes only 16 hours a month and two consecutive weeks during the year.

One result of this training will be that you'll have something to offer an employer other than your good intentions.

Another will be something even more valuable. It's called pride.

THE ARMY RESERVE. PART OF WHAT YOU EARN IS PRIDE.

MEN WITH THE ANSWERS

Throughout the year the four young men that represent FFA as National Vice Presidents field thousands of questions from students, advisors, businessmen and parents. We've asked these four members of this year's National Officer team, in office since November, to answer the one question that he would like to share with all FFA members.

Ron Wilson: *"How can I help get my chapter members involved?"*

"Any coach can tell you that it takes an entire team effort to win. Involvement of your entire chapter is the key to our winning team of FFA.

" 'What would you like to see your organization do?' Every member should ask—and answer—that question individually after being made aware of the endless opportunities for achievement in FFA. After finding an interest, seeing what can be gained and learning what it takes, team goals can be set.

"If members are involved in the planning, then involvement in the activities should follow. Positive recognition will help—take notice and say 'Thanks.' Be friendly to younger members and don't be afraid to tie a basketball game or refreshments onto a meeting or project. Members will learn to join in the fun *and* in the work.

"You can be a leader by being as involved as possible yourself. Strive for team success. If you constantly and unselfishly promote your fellow chapter members and FFA, you will find the personal benefits to be rich, natural, and abundant. What I've seen of involvement this year has proven to me again the truth of that short but powerful saying, 'Give to Gain.' "

Leo Anderson: *"What can I gain from being an FFA member?"*

"In looking at it not as a National Officer, nor a past state officer, but as an FFA member, I see many specific changes in my life as a result of my participation in the FFA. And in talking with other former FFA members during the year, I've found they too, have seen these changes in their own lives.

"The FFA took a shy, quiet, young boy who lacked a great deal in self-confidence and changed him to one who believed in himself. I finally felt I could handle a job placed before me because of the responsibility given me by my fellow FFA members. The fact that I was terrible at almost everything and didn't have any skills really didn't matter, because the FFA was taking me as the person I was and changing me to the best person I could ever be. It not only increased my self-confidence but helped me to gain the ability to present myself in front of a group to express clearly my thoughts and ideas. It takes your weak leadership skills and begins to sharpen them. But if you think the FFA will help you by your just sitting around, you're wrong. The only way that you can see a change is to become involved, participate. One thing is for sure, you'll never know what it's about until you give it a try."

Wilson

Bouldin

Anderson

Loudenslager

Elton Bouldin: *"Why should I become involved in the FFA?"*

"I remember years ago when my mother would tell me to eat everything on my plate. The conversation would go something like this: 'Elton, finish eating.' 'Why?' 'Because.' 'Because why?' 'Because it is good for you!'

"It did not seem like a very good argument. It was hopeless for mother to describe things like vitamins and minerals. Telling me about those things would be like telling Columbus about landing on Mars.

"Not many years ago I remember my FFA advisor urging me to become involved in the FFA. My question: 'Why?' His answer: 'Because it will be good for you.'

"Maybe those weren't the exact words we exchanged, but they are close. After several science courses I learned the value of vitamins in a balanced diet. Looking back on my last five years in the FFA, it is quite easy for me to see why you should become active in its programs. Reasons that range from improved ability to speak, lead, organize and get things done, to establishment in agriculture, financial awards, personal recognition, new opportunities and experiences.

"Despite all these reasons I find it hard to answer the question, 'Why?' You as a member will have to actually become involved before you can understand the answer.

"You ask 'Why?' I say sincerely 'Because. . . it's good for you.' Believe me, it is!"

Doug Loudenslager: *"How can I ever hope to receive the American Farmer degree or one of the proficiency awards?"*

"A lot of members I have talked to this last year have reservations about ever applying for the highest degree one can receive in the FFA (American Farmer degree) or one of the proficiency awards.

"How can I ever hope to have an occupational experience program that equals those at state and national conventions?

"Why not try a three step approach?

1. Develop a four to six year plan with your parents and vo-ag instructor. Map out where you want to go. When you go on a vacation, you have to have a plan, same with your projects. Remember—start small and gradually build!

2. Get a copy of the American Farmer degree and the proficiency awards that you want to apply for and use those applications to keep a record of all your projects and FFA activities (i.e.) chapter offices, judging contest, FFA conventions. Update these applications every three months.

3. Start early—the first day you step in that vocational agriculture class should mark the beginning of your trip towards the American Farmer degree and/or proficiency award. Good luck!"

We've all grown. Together.

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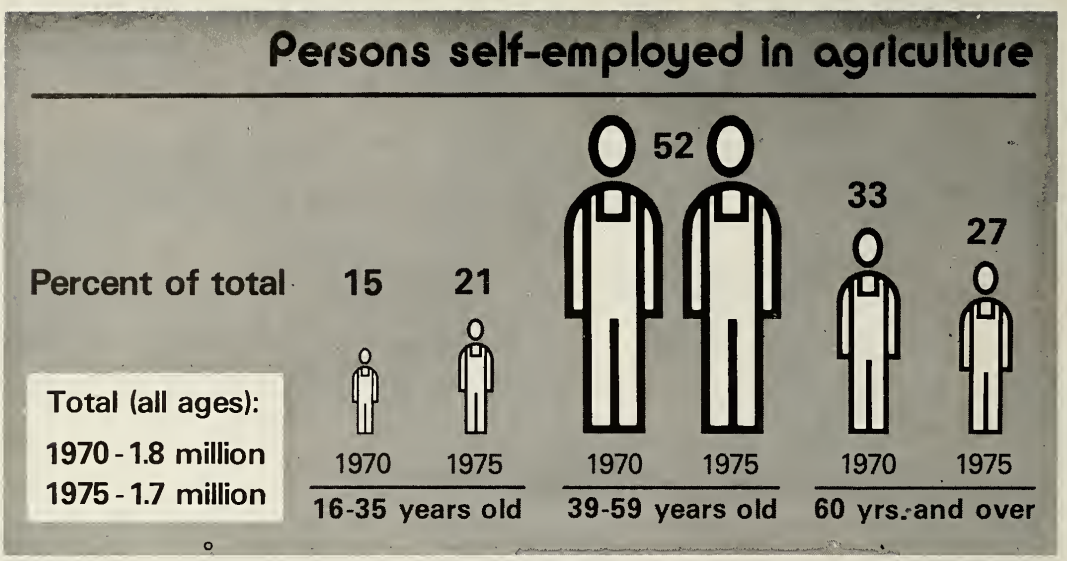


A Younger Breed of Farmers

NEW wrinkles on the face of American agriculture? On the contrary, there are fewer wrinkles. According to surveys by the Bureau of the Census, our farmers are actually younger nowadays.

This could mark the end of a trend going on since before World War I, when statistics first began to show that old age was creeping up on people self-employed in agriculture.

In 1910 the age of all farm operators averaged out to 43.5 years but by 1965 that figure had climbed to 51.3 years. In the same span, the proportion of farmers under 35 dropped from 29 percent to about 11 percent.

Where would it all end? Who would take over when farmers died or retired? The answers had to wait till the early seventies and the census surveys which showed the long decline in numbers of young farmers has come to a halt.

The data indicate that the median age of persons self-employed in agriculture reached a peak of 53.1 years in 1970. This statistic is not exactly comparable to what was gathered for earlier years, since it included a small percentage of people who were not farm operators, such as those engaged in veterinary work, crop dusting, and cotton ginning. Also, it relates only to persons whose sole or principal occupation was in agriculture.

In any case, the conclusion is the same: Average age of self-employed persons in agriculture has been inching lower since 1970. By 1975, it had dipped to 50.4 years, or nearly 3 years less than in 1970.

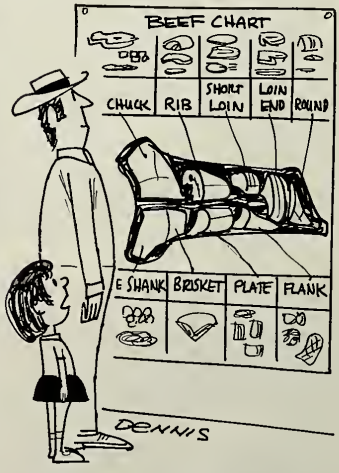
More significantly, workers under 35 years rose from 265,000 to 358,000—a gain of 35 percent—whereas those 60 and over fell from 601,000 to 461,000, a decrease of 23 percent.

Says an ERS demographer: "One can only conjecture about the circumstances that have finally halted the rise in the age of farmers. But it was known that the aging process could not go on forever. It was simply going through a transition. The day had to come when the number of workers reached some stabilization and when the age composition began to normalize."

Though specific details are lacking, the reasons for the age dropoff may be tied to better profits from farming, the improved attitude of farm youth toward agriculture and rural life, and an entry of urban-reared young adults into farming. Too, the trend may have been buttressed by the large number of young adults in the population—"baby boom" children have grown up.

"Whatever the details to be filled in," the ERS demographer continues, "the existence of the new trend is definite.

"If there were two demographic articles of faith for those engaged in rural policy or research in the 1960's, they were the advancing average age of farmers and the high rate of rural to urban migration. Both of these trends changed in the 1970's."



"Where's the wish bone?"

Reprinted from The Farm Index. *Based on special material by Calvin L. Beale, Economic Development Division.*

Shell horse wormer... the best wormer you can buy. Here's proof:

PRODUCT	% EFFICACY*						
	BOTS	ROUNDWORMS	LARGE BLOODWORMS (Vulgaris)	LARGE BLOODWORMS (Edentatus)	SMALL BLOODWORMS	PINWORMS Mature	PINWORMS Immature
Shell Horse Wormer	91-100	99-100	100	90-100	85-100	99-100	99-100
Alfalfa Pellet Horse Wormer	0	90-100	40-60	0-10	90-100	70-80	10-20
Bot-X	90-100	95-100	0-10	0-5	0-30	90-100	10-20
Foal Wormer	0	90-100	40-60	0-10	90-100	70-80	10-20
Pheno-Sweet	0	0	50-75	20-40	85-95	0	25-50
Wonder Wormer	0	90-100	40-60	0-10	90-100	70-80	10-20
Banminth	0	99	90	80	85	90+	75
Performance Wormer	0	10-30	90-100	90-100	90-100	90-100	30-40
Anthon	90-100	95-100	0-10	0-5	0-30	90-100	10-20

*Compiled from published reports and selected Shell Data

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DISTANCE RIDING

LIKE a sleeping giant awakening, the sport of distance riding which for the past few years has been stretching and slowly flexing its muscles is now coming into its own.

Ten years ago there were less than 40 competition rides and only one recognized endurance ride. Today the number of rides approaches 300, with some rides having over 200 horses entered. The rides take place from the Rocky Mountains of the West to the Appalachians of the East. A number of breed groups sponsor their own organized trail rides, including the Appaloosa Horse Club, the Morgan Horse Association and the Arabian Horse Association.

Distance riding isn't anything new, it's actually a modern version of cavalry training and maneuvers. Many of the same principles of competition apply as do many of the training and conditioning procedures.

Today's rides are of two basic types, competitive and endurance. The competitive ride is from 25 to 40 miles per day, for one, two or three days. Thirty-five mile one-day events and 50 to 60 mile two-day rides are the most common, however, the oldest established continuing competitive ride is the Vermont three-day 100 miler. Several East Coast competitive rides have patterned their rides after Vermont using the 40-40-20 mileage.

On the competitive ride, there is no race. The course will be covered within a maximum and minimum time. All the horses are taking the same test in the same length of time and under the same circumstances. A pre-ride veterinary examination is given to all horses prior to the contest. Further vet exams are given throughout the ride, and there is a final exam after the horses complete the course. Records are kept on each horse. Its performance on the trail will be evaluated and its finishing condition will be compared to its starting condition.

Since it will "cost" all of the horses, and riders for that matter, in terms of energy and effort to complete the course, in effect it is the horse that completes the course with the "least cost" that is determined the winner.

Endurance rides are generally one-day events and are 50 to 100 miles in length. Fastest time does determine the winner, however as on competitive rides, all horses are subject to veterinary examination before, during and after the ride. They must complete the event in a condition to continue traveling on,

Equitation will be judged only as it applies to trail riding. A forward position while climbing is proper form. Riders often lead their horses down steep inclines.

Equipment for Distance Riding needn't be expensive. All kinds of tack are used to provide comfort to horse and rider.

Endurance and competitive riding usually involves the entire family. Non-riders may choose to help with management.

or they will not be awarded a placing.

Pulse and respiration (P & R) values of the horses are a major criteria in judging both kinds of rides as well as helping to determine which horses may remain in competition and which must be eliminated.

Horsemanship may be judged on competitive rides but not on endurance. When it is judged, it is considered and awarded separately from the horse's performance. The factors of consequence will be those that relate to care and management of the horse in a field situation.

All types of riding offer the opportunity to develop a particular expertise. Some will concentrate on showmanship, some on precision in executing intricate movements, etc. Generally the horse and/or rider's performance is evaluated and graded during a relatively brief performance.

In distance riding, the test is a long one. Most competitive courses will require 6½ to 7 hours of riding time per day. Fifty-mile endurance rides will usually involve a maximum of 10 or 12 hours and the one-day 100-milers have a maximum of 24 hours.

On the competitive ride the entrant's ability in presentation, stabling care and proficiency in negotiating his horse over specific obstacles will be judged. However, during most of either an endurance or competitive event, the horse and rider team will be out of sight of the judges and it will be the results rather than the appearance of the rider's management that will be appraised.

As previously mentioned, pulse and respiration are primary judging factors. During the ride P & R readings are taken in pairs. Immediately upon arrival into a vet check, an incoming P & R is taken. This reading simply establishes the fact that the horse has been working at a certain level of stress. In a given length of time a second or recovery reading will be taken. The interval of time between the first and second readings will be the same for all of the horses. The second reading tells the judges if the horse is or is not recovering sufficiently.

There is a delicate balance involved in evaluating the difficulty of the trail, and conserving the horse's energy wisely so that one neither runs out of horse or time.

The P & R recoveries tell a lot of the story. Either the horse is working comfortably within his limits or he is being taken over the course faster than he is capable of traveling. If the latter is determined, it could be that the horse was not adequately conditioned before the ride or that the rider is simply asking for too much speed. Regardless of the reason, failure to recover to acceptable levels at the vet check means disqualification of the horse. The same standards apply to all entrants.

The riders can learn to take P & R's so that they will understand how to use them in gauging their own horse's recovery capabilities in training as well as in competition.

In any distance event there can be a certain amount of luck involved in finishing, or not. However, over the long haul, taking several rides into consideration it is proper preparation and good judgement that will pay off in successful completions.

Placing this kind of responsibility on the rider, rather than a brief observer's opinion, develops a self sufficiency that appeals to riders of all ages. It is not unusual to see a range in age of contestants spanning from 10 to 70 years.

Distance riding is gracious in allowing the rider to become aware of how much he is learning and improving in cross country riding skill. This usually means the rider's first ride is just that, the first one, with more to follow.

An extra bonus is that as riders condition their horses, they themselves become conditioned. Many who didn't start down that distance trail until they were in their 40's and 50's have attested to now enjoying a better state of health than they did 10 and 15 years prior.

Most rides are conducted in a camping situation and all of the family is welcome. Frequently non-riding family members volunteer to help with the actual management of the ride, working on P & R teams or as vet secretaries, as timers and other necessary ride officials. This provides an outing for the entire family in which they can all take an active part.

There is usually a community involvement in putting on a ride. The local citizen band radio groups are of tremendous help in keeping track of the riders during the event as they use the ride for a radio exercise. Service clubs of all kinds may manage meal preparation and various other logistical matters such as personnel transportation.

Putting together enough trail for a 30, 50, or 100 mile event can necessitate using a combination of many parcels of private and public lands. Farm and ranch lands, holdings of lumber companies as well as local, county and state parks, land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, are all used. Again this diversity of participation adds up to a community enterprise—even among the nonhorsemen, a sense of this being "their ride."

The cooperation of land owners and land managers for the event allows riders, families and crews alike to get into some beautiful parts of the country that they might not have access to under any other circumstances.

With so much to offer so many, is it any wonder that each day distance riding is gathering a greater following of horsemen who are anxious to "Hit the Trail!"

(By Sharon Saare, Director of Distance Riding, Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc.)

BIG ENOUGH TO ENJOY IT

Trissel's managerial abilities are evident in his registered and commercial sheep flock. He has had an enviable lambing percentage of over 130 the past two years.

"YOU can't make money standing still, you've got to go get it." That one sentence accounts for much of the success of Marlin Trissel, the 1975 winner of the National FFA Agriculture Proficiency award in Livestock Production. The 19-year-old graduate of Mooreland High School in Oklahoma put his philosophy to work in building his livestock program up through the years as a member of the FFA.

Marlin gives Advisor Jim Hazelwood credit for sparking his interest in FFA. "Mr. Hazelwood takes some of the freshmen to Kansas City each year. Four years ago when I saw the awards being presented to the national winners, I said, 'I'll be back to pick one of those up some day.'"

When Marlin was recognized at the Convention in Kansas City last year he had accumulated a net worth of over $35,000 from his livestock holdings which included 135 head of beef (including a bull, cow and calves), 56 ewes and lambs and 126 sows, boars and feeder pigs.

Marlin learned early that standing still didn't put money in his pocket. He owned his first cow while in the fourth grade (a gift from his father), and began his sheep project when, in the seventh grade he traded his summer's labor for ten head of ewes.

The "Farmer Boy", Marlin's CB handle is heard frequently in the community.

The biggest boost to his livestock program though, came in the fall of 1974 when the cattle market had hit its lowest point in years. Marlin convinced his father, Wayne Trissel, that since prices were so low it was a good time to buy some cattle. They each purchased 50 head of Hereford calves to pasture on their winter wheat ground. Cattle prices failed to climb by summer so they chose to run them on summer grass until they were ready to sell. When they did finally sell, the investment proved profitable. They had doubled their money.

Marlin admits that the timing may have been lucky but insists that a person needs to experiment and try new things to be successful in the livestock business. One such experiment led to dramatic increases in the number of pigs he is producing today.

"I used to raise registered sows," he says. "I was averaging between seven and eight pigs weaned per litter, each weighing about 40 pounds at eight weeks of age. Then I bought some crossbred Yorkshire-Hampshire sows and they were averaging 9.6 pigs weaned per litter weighing 65 pounds at eight weeks of age. The crossbreds were just better for my operation. So now all my sows are crossed. It really has paid to try something new."

Another management practice the young livestock man uses in his swine program is the use of alfalfa pasture to supplement feed for his eight sows. "Wherever the alfalfa greens up enough I turn them out," he says. By his own estimates the use of pasture reduces the cost of feed 20 percent while reducing sanitation problems. It also supplies them with vitamin A and other vitamins and minerals.

The sheep flock Marlin has built up includes 15 registered Suffolk ewes, 15 registered Dorset ewes, and 27 commercial ewes. He recently purchased a registered ram of each breed to upgrade the flock and to use with the ewes as foundation stock for a flock of 100 ewes he hopes to finally manage. With the special care he gives the ewes during lambing season, Marlin has achieved over 130 percent lamb crop for the last two years.

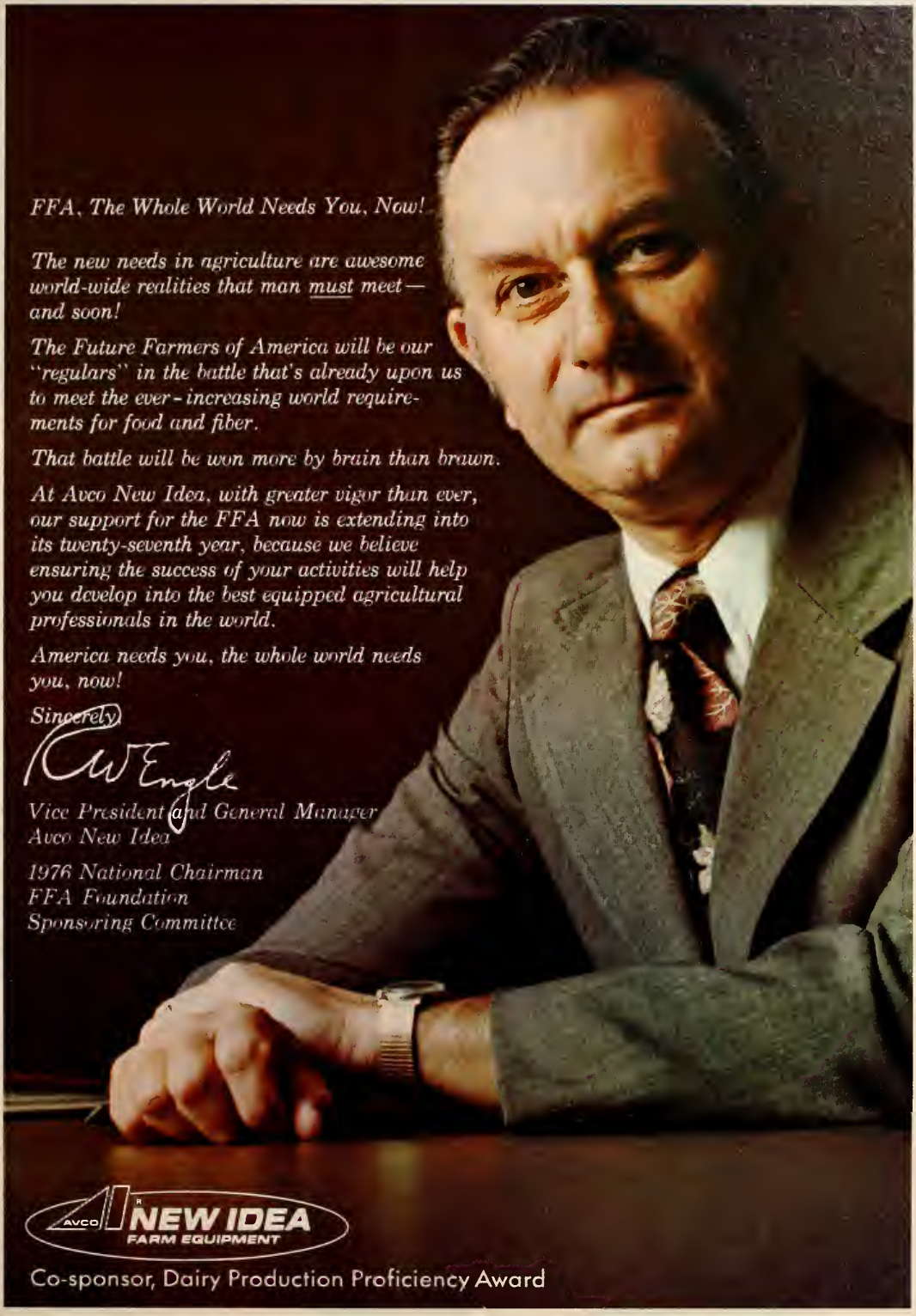
"The more lambs, or pigs, or calves you can save at birth, the more you will have to sell," says Marlin. "It's that simple. I try to give all the animals the best care possible when they are giving birth. It means some long nights but that's really where you can make the difference in your production."

Such attention to proper management also carries over into the beef operation Marlin has developed. A new registered Angus herd sire was purchased to produce higher quality show cattle. Marlin contends that much of what he has learned about livestock has come from participation in livestock shows. "I showed my first calf when I was nine and I've been showing ever since," he notes. "Showing helps you see the right kind of animals to raise—the kind the industry wants."

Today a large part of Marlin's livestock sales are through members of 4-H and FFA programs. Premiums are often paid by members looking for quality animals. Twenty-eight wethers from his lamb crop last year were purchased for show lambs as were eight of his young pigs. Prices for his lambs ranged from $75 a head to $225 per head.

Farming and ranching run deep into the Trissel family history. Marlin's grandfather Joe Trissel homesteaded the land on which the present ranch is located. The cattle operation is still organized around the framework which the elder Trissel built. Yet a number of changes have taken place since Marlin received his "gift" cow nearly ten years ago. Many more changes are bound to take place—partly because of the dynamic nature of the livestock industry and even more because of the philosophy of last year's National FFA Livestock winner.

"I just want to get big enough to enjoy it," he says, looking out over the herd of Angus cows scattered across the Oklahoma hills.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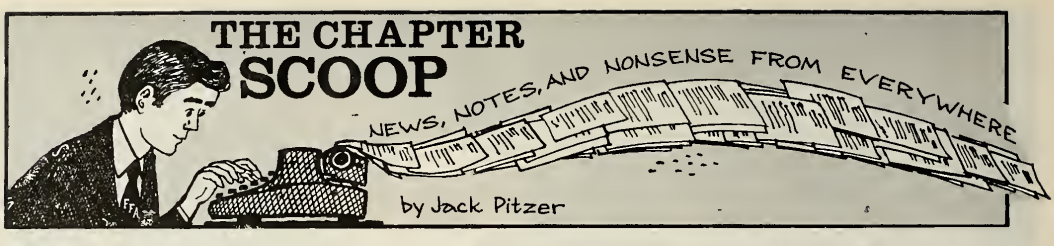

They had a pizza party at their advisor's house to honor top *Aplington,* Iowa, Chapter fruit salesmen.

N-N-N

A young farmer and former member of *Lower Dauphin,* Pennsylvania, Chapter hired his chapter to hand catch pullets out of his new 40,000 unit.

N-N-N

Two members of *Mission Viejo,* California, will be raising the first pigs in ten years on their farm this year.

N-N-N

Owen Poole, a Virginia State FFA vice president, was the National Youth Representative for FFA at the American Institute of Cooperation in July.

N-N-N

Members of *The Dalles,* Oregon, Chapter are anxious after recent bond issue for a new vocational facility.

N-N-N

The FFA chapter and the alumni affiliate from *New Holstein,* Wisconsin, split a double-header softball challenge.

N-N-N

Besides their old machinery display, greased pig scramble and float in the town's Bicentennial celebration, *Prague,* Nebraska, helped clean up afterwards.

N-N-N

A vo-ag olympics was held by *Wapanucka,* Oklahoma, for 200. Skills tested were tractor operation, parking trailer, weight lifting, stacking hay, climbing rope, fly casting, wood chopping, post throwing and rat hitting.

N-N-N

South Shelby, Missouri, members and guests enjoyed having the National President as banquet speaker.

N-N-N

Worcester, Massachusetts, planted a "liberty tree" as a Bicentennial gift to their high school.

N-N-N

Seniors in *Alden,* Iowa, served a faculty breakfast. Freshmen cleaned up.

N-N-N

A committee of the whole—100 members—was invited to work on the *Walhalla,* North Dakota, float.

N-N-N

Redwood planters were built and filled with flowers for outside area of local stores by *Cresco,* Iowa.

Two of the new National Junior Polled Hereford Council members are FFA'ers. Chairman **Glenn Werry, Jr.,** is from *Farmington,* Illinois. Secretary is **Robin Ray Russell** of *Camden,* Arkansas.

N-N-N

Hort team from *Clay City,* Iowa, preparing for contest toured nurseries.

N-N-N

Seven members and their advisor from *Chokio-Alberta,* Minnesota, visited the *Hobson,* Montana, Chapter.

N-N-N

Gary Schinagel, reporter for *Sheffield,* Iowa, writes of recent chapter visit to National Disease Labs in Ames. Saw many studies of curing animals.

N-N-N

BOAC project for *Lebanon,* Connecticut, was planting a descendant of the Charter Oak at a local landmark.

N-N-N

Every chapter should consider passing out Official 1977 FFA Calendars in their area.

N-N-N

James Magee, Jr. and **Jamie Magee** accepted the state best chapter award for *Slidell,* Louisiana, at state convention. Their advisor is James Magee, Sr.

N-N-N

"We're planning to rent the 'Y' for a night of recreation." *Royal,* Iowa.

N-N-N

The Bicentennial float by *South Carroll,* Maryland, Chapter took second.

N-N-N

As of July, 1976, the largest chapter in the U.S. was *Battle Ground,* Washington, with 751 members.

N-N-N

Then comes *W. B. Saul* in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with 455; *Kelso,* Washington, with 357; *Moultrie,* Georgia, with 343 and *South Panola* in Batesville, Mississippi, with 334.

N-N-N

FFA'ers at *Madelia,* Minnesota, took part in a controlled burning of a 20-acre marsh.

N-N-N

Vic Thompson wrote that FFA painted new red, white and blue trash barrels for *Prattsburg,* New York.

FFA gave a program to the *Manson,* Iowa, Kiwanis Club on parliamentary procedure and hog judging.

N-N-N

Winthrop, Minnesota, Chapter officers took a canoe trip down the Minnesota River and held an officer meeting.

N-N-N

There were 72 *Gretna,* Virginia, Junior Chapter members at their summer meeting and picnic. Chow was organized by **Lynn Arrington** and each member had prepaid before school was out in the spring.

N-N-N

The automobile safety check held by *Delaware,* Ohio, FFA was in cooperation with the city police department.

N-N-N

Drummond, Oklahoma, FFA was recognized in BOAC for building a place to keep livestock projects.

N-N-N

Looking forward to more story details about the 20-member *Santa Ynez,* California, FFA fishing trip into the Sierras from reporter **Harmon Kaslow.**

N-N-N

Winthrop, Minnesota, members are restoring a 1938 Allis Chalmers tractor.

N-N-N

Spencer, Iowa, bought two Simmental bred heifers to start a beef chain.

N-N-N

The *King George,* Virginia, Chapter "held" a summer meeting and cookout. Then the usual ball games and horseshoes erupted.

N-N-N

An FFA gun club has been formed at *Capital,* Washington. They sold Christmas trees to buy a 22-target rifle. Gun safety class is in progress.

N-N-N

To honor *Laurens,* Iowa, members who sold 25 boxes of fruit, the chapter took 'em to dinner and a movie.

N-N-N

It's gearing up time. Include in your FFA plan to send news, notes or nonsense to Scoop. New chapter activities, success stories, ideas on member involvement, funny incidents, individual accomplishments.

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Flanked by the World Championship trophy, Bill proudly displays his award for being Central Region Runner-Up.

Bill's High On Auction Action

By Gary Bye

"MY goal? To be the world champion auctioneer," Bill Zobel says in the same breath. "When I've reached that goal, I will just find another."

Bill Zobel at age 20 is one of the youngest active auctioneers in the country. But this is just one of many credits he has to his name. Since July of this year he has served as the executive secretary for the Poland China Record Association, the oldest of the American swine breed registration groups.

A 1973 high school graduate, Bill has held positions on two different livestock magazines, *The Nebraska Farmer-Stockman* and the *National Poland China World*. Today he serves as editor of the latter as part of his executive secretary duties.

But Bill Zobel's story starts even before high school graduation. He was a student of vocational agriculture and an FFA member in Creighton, Nebraska, under Advisor Tony Wewel. His first FFA office was Greenhand president. Later he became chapter reporter and president. By his senior year of high school he had 20 ewes, 40 head of feeder steers and 43 registered sows. At graduation he made the decision that he would forego college to carry out his career in production agriculture full time.

While pursuing his interests in livestock production, Bill's career began to fork into another aspect of the livestock business. In the summer of 1972 he attended the Superior School of Auctioneering in Decatur, Illinois. Of the approximately 30 students Bill graduated at the head of his class. At the age of 17 he was invited to appear on the "To Tell The Truth" television show as the youngest independent auctioneer in America. "I only fooled one of the panelists," he admits. But that small failure was in sharp contrast to the other successes he was experiencing.

Mixing his new found trade with his FFA involvement, Bill served as auctioneer for 72 slave sales in Nebraska (where FFA members are auctioned off for a day of labor as a chapter money making activity). "I didn't charge for my services that first year," Bill notes, "I did it just for the experience."

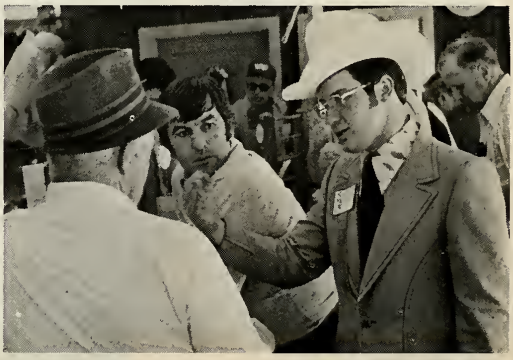
The volunteer service paid off in two ways. One, his skills as an auctioneer were honed to the point that he won an honorable mention in the World Auctioneering Championships as the youngest contestant ever to enter. Second, he became a familiar face around the state and that summer was elected state FFA vice president. As an officer he spoke at 44 banquets and that year at FFA leadership camp he won the extemporaneous speaking contest for the second straight year.

With his involvement in public speaking growing, Bill began to consider the possibilities of making auctioneering his full time profession. An unfortunate turn of events with his livestock program helped him decide. The sows in his program developed leptospirosis, an infectious swine disease, destroying the solid base which he had built.

Commenting on that turning point in his life Bill pulls a quote from the seemingly endless reservoir of locker room slogans he uses to season his conversations. "You can't ever look back," he says. "Look at the sun and you won't see the shadows."

After the sale of his stock was complete Bill quickly found work at the Ewing, Nebraska, livestock market as a public relations man and auctioneer. Four months later he accepted a job as associate editor for the *Nebraska Farmer Stockman* which entails the solicitation of advertising for

Auction yards often bring Bill together with hog breeders for a discussion of new trends in the Poland China breed.



the magazine. Bill traveled extensively across five states. The more he traveled and met people the more often he found himself with gavel in hand, pounding out the rhythmic sales chant over someone's prize boar or gilt. "Chanting is to an auctioneer what singing in the shower is to other people," he jokes.

Less than four years after graduating from auctioneer's school, Bill can count over 25 states in which he has served as an auctioneer and he will admit that it is financially rewarding.

"On most sales the auctioneer will receive 2 percent of the gross figures for the sale," he says noting that the highlight of his career as an auctioneer so far has been the selling of a $6,300 boar and a $4,400 horse-drawn hearse.

Despite the obvious temptations that could occur to some less scrupulous auctioneers, Bill insists that the two most important factors in the success of an auctioneer are honesty and ethics. In his positions as executive secretary of the Poland breed he says he works to "sell pigs that satisfy, not to say I've sold another one."

Since July Bill has poured all his energy and efforts into his new career. "We're starting with a lot of history (the breed celebrates its centennial this year) and less hogs than a lot of the other breeds," he says, "but we're growing." The figures back him up, 7,000 Polands were registered two years ago, compared to 11,900 last year. Bill predicts the number will grow to 15,000 this year. And next year's goal is 20,000.

Promoting and selling the breed will cause Bill to view over 75,000 miles from the front seat of his car in the year ahead. "All the breed needs is people power and promotion to make it progress," he says optomistically.

In his first editorial for the *Poland China World* magazine Bill challenged the breeders to work harder and to do a better job of representing their breed. He writes, "If we would all score ourselves objectively and then make the necessary changes, you can imagine the impact and force this would make on the swine industry. Everyone would be talking about the Poland breed and the improvements we've made."

There are opportunities for FFA members in auctioneering according to Bill, if they're willing to work and practice.

Still an active FFA member, Bill says one of the approaches he will take in promoting his breed will be through the young breeders. "Tell the FFA members this," he says, "if they are serious about Poland Chinas and they need some help, to let us know. We'll do whatever we possibly can to help them out."

What else can be said? Bill Zobel is a born salesman—and one day a champion.

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Will America's Sheep Industry Become Extinct?

Photo by Author

These sheep grazing on the western slope of Colorado are converting grass into food and fiber for human use.

By Wilson Carnes

Using sheep as a supplemental enterprise could add income to many farms.

Photo by Gary Byc

THE American sheep industry has a problem. There is not enough supply to meet the demand.

This is what industry leaders told a group of agricultural communicators during a meeting at Vail, Colorado. They cited such figures as a sheep population in the United States of over 54 million head in 1945 but just 13.3 million head on January 1, 1976. The decline was 8 percent during 1975 and is 19 percent below January 1, 1974.

This places the sheep industry in a curious situation. Though the demand for sheep products remains high, their supply is at an all-time low. This despite the highest prices ever for lamb.

"It is fair to say that the sheep industry is in a race for survival," says Dick Biglin, executive director of the American Sheep Producers Council, Denver, Colorado.

The per capita consumption of lamb and mutton in the United States was only two pounds last year, far under the 7 pounds consumed in 1945 and a half-pound less than game animal meat consumed. Most of this was lamb with only about 10 percent being mutton.

Why the low per capita consumption figure? According to John Morrison, ASPC's Sheep Industry Development Program director, "It is certainly not a lack of consumer demand. The simple fact is, due to short supply, people simply cannot buy lamb in most parts of the country."

The regional pattern of the sheep industry is that the greatest number of lambs are produced in the Western states. However, lamb products are consumed in the large metropolitan markets of the Northeast, Midwest and West Coast regions. The New York metro-market alone accounts for 32 percent of the total domestic lamb consumption.

The wool market shows a similar downward trend. The decline in wool consumption is not so much from a lack of supply, since more than two-thirds is imported, but is due largely to competition from synthetic fabrics. Since the mid-1970's, the natural fibers are making a comeback and wool prices have recovered.

Why are industry leaders so concerned? One official described it this way, "Declining sheep numbers have presented us with a problem—too little product. Because of less live lambs, we're seeing kill plants close their doors. And of course, with fewer plants comes fewer buyers. With less available lamb, we're losing valuable counter space in the food stores."

Slaughter lamb prices have moved too rapidly in 1976 making it difficult for the industry to plan ahead and adjust. Prices for lambs reached record highs during the spring, reaching $65 to $70 per cwt. in most lamb markets during May. The result was an overreaction to the high prices and a rapid decline in live prices over a short period of time. In less than eight weeks, the average price dropped from close

(Continued on Page 75)

Bicentennial Briefs

STILL going strong! FFA Bicentennial activities continue to be popular among chapters in response to this special year. The West Muskingum FFA Chapter of *Zanesville, Ohio,* selected a boat ramp construction and landing park development as their BOAC and Bicentennial project for 1976. The boat ramp is to be used by the sternwheeler Lorena purchased by the community to travel up and down

Over 10,000 have used the facilities.

the historic Muskingum River. The Lorena will hold 145 passengers. The FFA chapter, through BOAC funds, donations and local chapter resources will assist in construction of the boat dock, boat house and development of the Putnam Landing Park along the river.

The Prague FFA Chapter, *Prague, Oklahoma,* set a somewhat slower pace by sponsoring terrapin races (what else?) during the town's Independence Day celebration. Area youngsters were urged to enter their fastest terrapins (small North American turtles) in the competition. FFA members handled all the entries and painted identification numbers on the back of each terrapin. Placed in the center of a 50-foot wide circle, the entries were observed by FFA members and the winners were recorded as they raced out of the circle. Cash prizes were awarded to the lucky owners through the courtesy of the local American Legion Post.

The Bronson FFA Chapter, *Bronson, Michigan,* sponsored their own floral design contest for the community. The design was to illustrate the Bicentennial theme, for judging during Polish Festival Days. Top prize was $19.76 while second prize was, you guessed it, $17.76. The FFA made red, white and blue petunias available at cost for all contestants.

The Joshua FFA Chapter, *Joshua, Texas,* won first place in their community parade with their float. They built the float by loading a horse-drawn cultivator on a hay wagon built by the members and pulled the wagon behind a large, modern air-conditioned tractor. On each side of the float a poster read "200 Years of Agriculture."

An agricultural theme won for FFA.

The Wagon Train to Valley Forge

ONE of the most unique and challenging projects undertaken by an FFA chapter for the Bicentennial began in January of 1976 for FFA members of the Large Animal Care Program Chapter of Nassau BOCES, *Westbury, New York.* It started when a local farrier offered to provide a Conestoga wagon over 100 years old and a team of work horses to FFA Advisor W. Ardito for entry in the Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The BOCES Chapter, as part of the northeast region wagon train, was the only wagon from greater New York and Long Island and the only one with high school students participating as a unit.

The Belgium draft horses provided as the team, each weighed over 2,500 pounds and stood over six feet tall. They were unaccustomed to harness and reins, so six students had a daily assignment to shape the horses into a working unit. During this training period of several months, modifications were made in the Conestoga to make it more livable and weather protected. Since the time students were to be with the wagon train fell during the final weeks of school, a tight schedule was developed to permit six students and two staff members to ride with the wagon not to exceed 5 days at one time during the 21-day trek.

An FFA agricultural fair held on the BOCES site before the start of the trip provided the opportunity for thousands of people to view the wagon and horses along with a map of the United States showing all the routes, starting dates and locations of other national wagon trains heading for Valley Forge.

The trek which began the middle of June had the support of the local board of education which provided a back-up vehicle to carry camping equipment and feed for the horses. The board also provided a 12-passenger mini-bus to serve as a shuttle during the change of students and staff.

Wagon train beds down for the night just like they did in the old days.

No two days of the trip were the same, with official ceremonies, terrain, towns, villages, weather, campfires, cookouts, chow lines, guard duty, "Indian attacks," bedding down, curious visitors, fatigue and sick horses all part of the routine. The latter became the demise of the BOCES wagon. The gruelling pace, steep hilly country and extremely hot weather showed their effects on the horses. Finally on July 2, just two days before the arrival of the train in Valley Forge, the BOCES wagon was forced to withdraw.

Perhaps the feeling of students and staff was best summed up from an entry in one of their diaries. "Every effort was made to continue on the trek to Valley Forge. Wagon master and train people went out of their way to assist the horses and members, but Bud (the ailing horse) could not go on. All of us are sad, disappointed and very sorry, but glad that we have a place to go and care for the animal—unlike our forefathers, who would have faced remaining behind while the wagon train went forward."

This grinder will enable the feeder to mix low quality feeds into balanced rations. By Oswalt Division of Butler Manufacturing in Garden City, Kansas.

The whole herd, even gestating cows, can be vaccinated against four respiratory diseases using Triangle-4. By Fort Dodge Labs, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Large capacity of this liquid manure spreader is a full 18 tons of slurry. Flotation tires to reduce compaction. Shown here with 4-shank soil injectors. By Calumet Co., Algoma, Wisconsin.

Optional availability of this special auger will move heavy, tough rations with less power requirements than the standard. By Oswalt Division, Butler Manufacturing, Garden City, Kansas.

This portable Hog Haven confinement unit offers swine producers an easy-to-maintain finishing unit that can easily be disassembled and taken to another location. Oak slats for floor. Ventilation options of side panels and roof air vents. 12 feet by 32 feet and off the ground. By Meade Manufacturing, Meade, Kansas.

New Products for Your Livestock Operation

A combined leptospirosis and shipping fever bacterin, this product is used to immunize healthy cattle against the infections of these costly diseases. By Anchor Labs, St. Joseph, Missouri.

Bull's Eye. This protective pink eye patch guards the infected eye as well as prevents spreading of the disease. Cup shaped to protect eye. By Fearing Manufacturing, St. Paul, Minnesota.

This cuber makes two-inch square cubes from about anything—straw, grasses, hulls or stalks. By California Pellet Mill Company, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

This completely automatic New Fenton tarper to cover everything from grain to gravel. Works even when in motion. By Meade Manufacturing, Kansas.

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Harvestore believes in the Future Farmer and in the future of farming.

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A Shirttail to Hang on to

A WROUGHT iron gate frames the entrance to the ranch. Welded into its metallic design is a young cowboy hanging desperately to the back of his bronc. Below reads the inscription, "A SHIRTTAIL TO HANG ONTO."

Inside, youthful figures move with purpose under the boughs of the old cottonwoods that once shaded desperados like Billy The Kid. Situated here along the breaks of the Canadian River was Tascosa, Texas, which early in the 1880's bristled with saloons, dance halls and gambling dens. Grizzly evidence of its former reckless lifestyle lies on a rise above the town, in a Boot Hill Cemetery where 27 men claimed their prize for coming out second best in a game of guns.

But since 1939 this community, 40 miles north of Amarillo, Texas, has yielded a much different and more valuable product—partly as a result of the familiar leadership and training programs of the FFA.

In '39 six boys, a cook and a superintendent took up residence in the deserted courthouse of what was by then a ghost town. The unheralded move marked the founding of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch.

During those 37 years, the ranch has given shelter and hope to over 3,000 youngsters—all sizes, ages and backgrounds—from every state in the union. It is a home for boys who have no one to care for them. Nearly half have had scrapes with the law.

According to Guy Finstad, head of a successful four teacher agriculture department at the ranch, everyday common sense and discipline like that used by any family raising good children are the principles used for raising the boys. Ranch living includes chores, and for the 350 boys in residence, there are few exceptions to that rule. Even athletes whose practice may keep them after school make up the work hours either before breakfast or by working extra hours during the summer months.

"The boys do 95 percent of the work in running the ranch," says Finstad, "everything from feeding the cattle to mowing the lawns. They provide for themselves."

The influence of the ranch on the boys—living in a family oriented dormitory, taking part in a varied list of school activities including FFA and sports, and receiving instruction from teachers who show their personal interest in a student's performance—often pulls a boy from what the ranch's founder Cal Farley called "the bottom 10 percent of America's youth" to the top of the heap.

Bill Sarpalius is one of the examples. Brought to the ranch at age 12 in 1960, Bill and his two brothers had never experienced ranch life before. But by the time he was a senior he had built a solid program with the FFA and in 1968 became the Texas State FFA President.

Today, 16 years after unpacking his clothes for the first time at Boys Ranch he has returned as a teacher of vocational agriculture to help other young men on their way to becoming better citizens.

Agriculture, established in 1955, was the first vocational class introduced at the ranch. Now there are others including auto body and building trades. Agricultural training offers programs in horticulture, production agriculture, feedlot management, farm mechanics and meat processing. Any FFA member may set up a livestock project.

Tom Jordan, a senior FFA member at Boys Ranch says there are advantages to living at the ranch. "Everything you need is right here," he says in reference to setting up a good FFA program.

Tom is right. The ranch now encompasses 4,100 acres as a base for raising the crops and livestock which eventually end up on the ranch's dining room tables (ten hogs and five steers are slaughtered each week and processed by the boys themselves). Eight hundred acres are cultivated for pasture, hay, grain and gardens. Three-hundred and fifty cows wear the BR brand signifying Boys Ranch. In addition, the ranch houses 50 sows of top quality.

Of the 80 FFA members, an average of 20 boys show steers and a dozen belong to the rodeo club. If he is thrifty with his money, a boy can purchase his own horse.

The interest in horses and rodeo has long been a part of the overall concept of the Boys Ranch. At least once during each of the last 31 years the ranch has held its own rodeo. Last year nearly 10,000 people drove to the ranch to witness the action. There is, as with most rodeos, the usual excitement of bareback, saddlebronc and bull riding. But inevitably the stars of the show are the three- to five-year-olds who participate in a barrel race—on stick horses.

Today the dream of the late Cal Farley, one time professional wrestler, baseball player and businessman who worried about what was happening to young boys during the depression, has come true. Last year over 1,000 applications were received for the 85 openings to be filled.

As you leave Boys Ranch—moving past the dormitories and classrooms, the livestock barns and greenhouse, along the drive in front of the statue of Cal Farley and out the gate towards Boot Hill—you wonder what would have happened to a kid named Billy if he had found a shirttail like Cal Farley's Boys Ranch to hang onto.

Boys Ranchers Billy Bass and Paul Chandler stand beside memorial to Cal Farley outside Tascosa Court House.

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If its 1½ lb. receiver hasn't been machined out of a 7½ lb. solid steel block, it's not an Ithaca Featherlight. If its wood isn't hand-fitted, hand-finished solid American walnut, it's not a Featherlight shotgun. And if it doesn't have a Roto-forged® barrel, hammered to length from 15" billets, forged like the best rifle barrels, then stress relieved and triple reamed, it's not a Featherlight either.

These are some of the reasons a hunter who paid $90 in 1950 for a new Ithaca Model 37 Featherlight would find the same gun selling *used* 25 years later for $100*.

Our exclusive bottom ejection helps us keep this gun America's most reliable shotgun. Dirt, debris, rain and snow can't fall into this gun's action. Empties eject straight down instead of across your line of sight.

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Candidate

Picking a

Gerald R. Ford addressed the 1974 National FFA Convention in Kansas City as President to make a nationwide television address. Ford, who was an Eagle Scout, speaks highly of youth groups and has addressed the State FFA Presidents during their visit at the White House each of the last two summers.

FUTURE Farmers and agribusinessmen of this country have a great deal at stake in the November election. Political decisions made during the next four years as you are launching your careers will no doubt have far reaching effects on your future. Many of you will be voting for the first time. Others of you who are too young to vote can serve yourselves and the country by learning the issues at hand and preparing for the time when you can exercise that privilege as a U.S. citizen.

What are the issues? Look beyond the campaign slogans, the rhetoric and the promises—and examine the role each candidate and party sees agriculture playing in the world.

Never before have farmers represented such a small percentage (less than 5 percent) of the total U.S. populaton. Yet never has the farmers' ability to produce meant so much to so many people. Fifty-six persons are fed by one of this country's farmers. Many of these people are citizens from other countries. Food is now linked to national economic survival and foreign diplomacy.

To guarantee that farmers are represented fairly, those in agriculture, including the young leaders being trained through the Future Farmers of America must be able to speak out intelligently in their own behalf, and communicate their needs, wants and desires to those persons making the decision affecting agriculture. One means of communication is the vote.

You may find yourself asking, "What good will my one vote do?"

The power of one vote has been proven over and over in our country's history. Thomas Jefferson was elected President by one vote in the electoral college. So was John Quincy Adams and Rutherford B. Hayes. The election of President Hayes was contested and referred to an electoral commission. Again he won by a single vote. The man who cast that deciding vote was a congressman from Indiana, a lawyer who had been elected to office himself by a single

Gerald R. Ford

Born in Omaha, Nebraska. Graduated from South High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and from the University of Michigan. Coached football at Yale University before entering law school there in 1938. Enlisted in Navy in 1942. Completed 47 months of active service including combat duty before discharge in the reserve rank of lieutenant commander. Practiced law for three years in Michigan. Served in U.S. House of Representatives for 25 years. Was sworn into office as President in August, 1974. Ford is 63, married with four children.

Republican Agriculture Platform

- Provide services to farmers comparable to their urban neighbors such as water and sewer systems, improved electricity and telephone service, adequate transportation, available and adequate financial credit, and employment opportunities which will allow small farmers to supplement their incomes.
- Fight the problem of world hunger through our farm exports, especially with the humanitarian Food for Peace Program (Public Law 480).
- Support the continuation of the central principles of the Agricultural Act of 1973 with adjustments of target prices and loan levels to reflect increased production costs.
- Oppose government-controlled grain reserves and federal regulations that are unrealistic in farm practices, such as those imposed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Urge prompt action by Congress in amending the Grain Inspection Act to strengthen the present inspection system and restore its integrity.
- Guarantee farmers unfettered access to worldwide markets.
- Assure that foreign imported commodities are equal in quality to our domestic commodities.
- Help farmers protect themselves from drought, flood and other natural disasters through a system of all-risk crop insurance through federal government reinsurance of private insurance companies combined with the existing disaster payment program.
- Urge passage of the legislation now pending in Congress to increase the estate tax exemption to $200,000, allow valuation of farm property on a current use basis and provide for extension of the time of payment in the case of farms and small businesses. Favor a liberalized marital deduction and oppose capital gains tax at death.
- Encourage innovations in agriculture by expanding research programs including new pest and predator control measures, and utilization of crops as a new energy resource.
- Support farmer cooperatives, including rural electric and telephone cooperatives, in their efforts to improve services to their members. Support the Capper-Volstead Act.
- Prevent non-farm corporations and tax-loss farming from unfairly competing against family farms.
- Oppose unrealistic environmental regulations imposed on farmers.

Face-Off

President

vote. That one vote had been cast by one of the lawyer's clients who, though desperately ill, had insisted on being carried to the polls to cast his one vote. Your vote is important.

Although the greatest number of voters in America claim allegiance to neither the Democratic or Republican party, but vote as independents, these two parties have historically dominated the political scene in the United States. Before selecting their nominees for President and Vice-President each party drafts a campaign platform. These platforms are pledges to the people on what the party and the candidate will try to do if elected.

Political promises are the source of many jokes. Yet each party drafted their platform with deep conviction in these written documents. As you might guess, never has a party platform been followed to the letter by a winning candidate —it is humanly impossible due to the fast changing world in which we live. But the philosophy of that President is often reflected in a party's platform.

To help you understand the issues at hand in 1976, we have condensed both party's agricultural platforms. As you read them, note the stands they take on issues such as rural development, exports, world food reserves, food as a diplomatic tool and tax laws that concern agriculture and you. Now compare those stands with what you believe. Keep in mind that what may seem to benefit you the most will not always be in the best interest of the country. You will find that a compromise is sometimes necessary.

Jimmy Carter spoke at the 1975 National FFA Convention as a candidate for the Presidency. Carter himself was an FFA member in Plains, Georgia, 1939-41 and a chapter officer. He has also been an active FFA Alumni member since 1972 and speaks warmly of his affiliation with the organization.

Much will be written about the election that began America's third century. The results may determine her course for the future. Don't pass up the opportunity to take part in the election or if you're not eligible to vote, at least to learn about and understand the issues involved. You may want to save this article to see how close the winner will follow his pledges—and how accurate your own predictions and opinions of the future will be.

Democratic Agriculture Platform

- Establish a national food and fiber policy which will be fair to both producer and consumer and be based on the family farm agricultural system.
- Assure parity returns to farmers based on costs of production plus a reasonable profit.
- Intensify efforts to expand agriculture's long term markets abroad, and at the same time prevent irresponsible and inflationary sales from the American granary to foreign purchasers.
- Use the production of food and fiber in America as part of a constructive foreign policy based on long-term benefits at home and abroad, but not at the expense of the farmers.
- Encourage farm production at full capacity within the limits of good conservation practices including the use of recycled materials, if possible and desirable, to restore natural soil fertility.
- Store any surplus production, needed to protect the people of the world from famine, on the farm in such a manner as to isolate it from the marketplace.
- Convert excess production beyond the needs of the people for food into industrial purposes.
- Assist farmers in bargaining for the tools of production, and strengthen the institution of the family farm:
  - —Supporting the Capper-Volstead Act in its present form.
  - —Curb the influence of non-farm conglomerates which, through the elimination of competition in the marketplace, pose a threat to farmers.
  - —Support the farmer cooperatives and bargaining association.
  - —Revitalize basic credit programs for farmers.
  - —Provide adequate credit tailored to the needs of young farmers.
  - —Eliminate tax shelter farming.
  - —Overhaul federal estate and gift taxes to alleviate some of the legal problems faced by farm families who would otherwise be forced to liquidate their assets to pay the tax.
  - —Scrutinize and remedy any illegal concentrations and price manipulations of farm equipment and supply industries.
- Support programs of assistance to farm workers.
- Insure that all agricultural imports must meet the same quality standards as those imposed on agricultural products produced in the United States and that only quality American agricultural products be exported.

Jimmy Carter

Born in Plains, Georgia, and graduated from Plains High School in 1941. Attended Georgia Southwestern College and Georgia Institute of Technology before entering Naval Academy in 1943. Graduated with distinction and served seven years in the U.S. Navy while attaining rank of lieutenant commander. Worked on the nuclear submarine program. Returned to Plains in 1953 to manage the family interests including 2,500 acres of farmland. Served two terms in Georgia State Senate. Elected Governor of Georgia in 1970. Now 53 years old, married with four children.

TOP HAND ON THE BAR-M

Jerry must break all of the horses to make certain they are safe for guests.

"I MAY be one of the only FFA members in the country that can count tips as part of the income from my supervised occupational experience program," says the handsome teenager with a grin. As he talks he moves in and out of a string of saddle horses double checking each leather cinch for tightness.

It is mid-morning on a sunny August day and Jerry Baker, the FFA chapter president from the McEwen FFA Chapter of Athena, Oregon, is describing his involvement in their family business.

"When the dudes come each Sunday we greet them and show them to their cabins. I help them with their suitcases. That's where the tips come from."

Jerry and his family—two brothers, a sister, parents and grandfather—run the Bar M Dude Ranch. Carrying suitcases is just a small part of Jerry's contribution to the overall operation. Essential to the ranch are the 50 head of horses which he and his brothers care for. New horses must be broken each year to fit into the string and Jerry's task is to guarantee they are gentle enough to accommodate first-time riders, small children and the more elderly visitors.

Located along the rushing white waters of the Umatilla River in the Blue Mountains of northeast Oregon, the 2,500-acre ranch has served as a source of rest and relaxation for visitors since it was first a stagecoach stop over 100 years ago. The natural hot springs which originally drew visitors for its therapeutic value still offers Bar M guests a warm dip even on the coldest of mountain mornings.

"A lot of our guests come from the cities like Los Angeles or Portland," notes Jerry. "They come here to get away from all the people and the congestion—mainly just to relax."

From all appearances guests of all backgrounds do indeed find the ranch's family-like atmosphere to their liking. Sitting down for one of Gene Baker's (that's Jerry's father) famous home-cooked meals, one can, for example, find himself across the table from the editor of a left-wing political magazine from San Francisco, a school superintendent from Portland, and a gas delivery truck driver from Seattle. A lively conversation may center around the afternoon trail ride ahead or the fun that one guest had leading the ranch's herd bull to another pasture.

"Almost half of our guests are repeaters," notes Jerry. "We've had some that have come for the last ten years in a row. They become like part of the family."

Jerry says getting along with people is not only helpful in the business but almost a prerequisite to running a successful guest ranch. "You have to enjoy people in this business," he says. "They come here to enjoy themselves so they don't want someone to be telling them what to do or hurrying them around. Instead, you just have to be ready to help whenever they need it."

As if on cue, one of the pre-teenage guests sitting proudly atop her saddle shouts our way, "Hey, Jerry, this horse won't go. Can you get him started?" The good natured grin returns to his face.

Jerry's participation with the FFA fits into his ranch activities like a well-fitting saddle fits a horse. The feeder pigs he raises end up on the guests' dining room table as does some of the beef. His livestock projects also become the center of attention for many of the children who may have never seen a pig, or a cow or even a garden. Usually during a week's stay each of the children and some of the adults take a crack at coaxing milk from the ranch's milk cow.

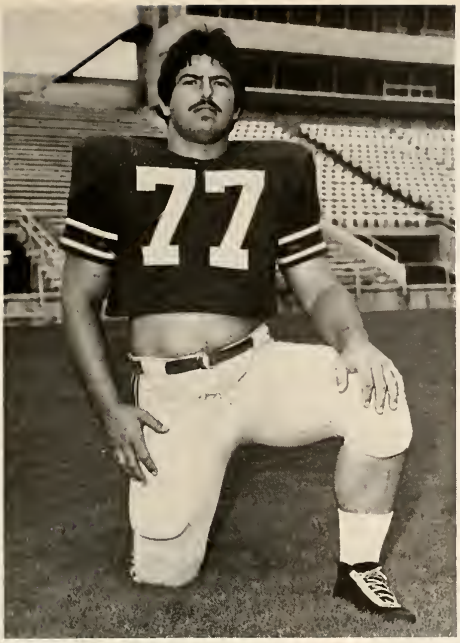
From mid-April to September the ranch averages about 20 guests per week, each of whom pays approximately $180 per week. Two trail rides are offered each day with free time before and after for fishing and swimming. Jerry leads one overnight ride at the end of the week after the riders have become accustomed to their horses. Most guests stay one full week and on the final Saturday an old fashioned square dance is held. Jerry often finds himself leading the guests through the steps of the Virginia Reel.

"We hold the dances in our log barn (said to be the biggest west of the Mississippi) and play square dance records that my grandfather's collected through the years," says Jerry. "It's the final fling for everybody," he adds.

To Jerry and the rest of his family who share the responsibilities of the ranch, it's the kind of life they love and want to see continue. They see their guests leave and have come to expect the looks of envy in their eyes. Living on a sprawling ranch, surrounded by the beauty of forests, mountains and a clear cascading river. Sharing recreation each day with 20 or 30 good friends whose main goal is to enjoy their visit. Making an effort to set a casual unhurried pace because no one wants you to hurry. Eating three delicious meals each day of which almost all of the produce is home grown on the farm. And finally (and not necessarily the most important) being paid for doing all those things.

"Some of our guests actually cry a little when they leave here, they just become so attached to the scenery and the life," concludes Jerry. "I don't know why I'd want to leave."

People of all ages find enjoyment in the beautiful surrounding landscape on trail rides into the high country.



Allen Danos is an outstanding football player today who found time to participate in both FFA and football while in high school.

A Defensive Stalwart From The Cajun Country

By Richard Weber

NICHOLLS State University is located in the heart of the Cajun Country on beautiful Bayou Lafourche at Thibodaux, Louisiana. They call their football team the Fighting Colonels.

A "colonel" who has established a reputation as an outstanding defensive tackle is Allen Danos, a 1971 graduate of South Lafourche High School. While in school there he was enrolled in vocational agriculture and was a member of the local FFA chapter for four years.

One of the quickest defensive linemen ever to play at Nicholls, Allen consistently turned in fine performances for his team. An exceptionally talented individual, he is not big for his position but his lightning quick movements enabled him to thwart offensive blockers and constantly harass runners and quarterbacks. Allen is six feet tall and weighs 240 pounds.

Nicholls State University is a member of the Gulf South Conference, one of the most prestigious college division conferences in the South and across the United States. It was formed five years ago in 1971, with an initial membership of eight schools. It now comprises a membership of ten colleges from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. One or more of its teams are nearly always represented in the national rankings and athletes from the representative schools are consistently listed on the national All-American teams.

Allen was selected as Nicholls' most valuable defensive player in 1975 and was also named to the All Gulf South Conference and All Louisiana Collegiate teams. He lettered all four years of his college playing career. He was named GSC player of the week this past season for his performance in the Jackson State game going against All-American offensive tackle Calvin Word. In that game he marked up 15 unassisted tackles and six assists. During the 1975 season in the Gulf South Conference, Allen compiled 86 unassisted tackles and 46 assisted.

"What did she say when you told her girls couldn't kick as well as boys?"

At South Lafourche High School where he played under head coach Ralph Pere, Allen was selected to the All District, All State and All Prep teams in Louisiana. He also lettered two years in track.

Although he was very busy as a football player, Allen was also active in vocational agriculture and FFA as indicated by his accomplishments in the local chapter at South Lafourche High School. His FFA projects were home vegetable gardening and show swine. He served as a chapter officer and was a member of the soil judging team. Vocational agriculture was one of his favorite subjects as evidenced by his good grades and enthusiasm in and out of the classroom.

Allen was drafted to play professional football in the Canadian League this year but has decided to teach and coach instead. He is now finishing his final semester in college.

It is said that opposing rushers who came to play against Nicholls were usually asked the riddle, "What is six feet tall, weighs 240 pounds and loves running backs?" For the most part the unsuspecting running backs usually replied to some water creature that roams the marshes but everyone in "Bayou Land" knows that it was defensive tackle Allen Danos—an active FFA member who has become a star.

Change is Traditional

Sure, the cattle business is traditional, but it's also flexible. For years cattlemen have "leaned" a little on tradition to make needed changes and progress.

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French Beef & Sheep

(Continued from Page 22)

well over a million people attended the show jamming into the livestock barns and crowding around all the latest in power machinery. For Brad and Terry it was an opportunity to see all breeds of beef cattle and sheep together in one place.

It was Brad's first good look at French sheep breeds. "They have a sizable sheep industry," says Brad, "especially in the eastern and southern areas of the country where the terrain is more rugged. I was most impressed with the research we saw on multiple births," he says. "They've done considerable research on twinning and have had some success in breeding for a high percentage of multiple births."

As we continued our travels we learned that each breed of cattle dominates a particular geographic area of France. The predominant breed of cattle in all of France is the Charolais. The majority of Charolais, however, are located in the central part of France. Headquarters for the Charolais Herdbook is in Nevers, a city about 150 miles south of Paris. The Charolais Herdbook is the largest breed association in France handling registration records on hundreds of thousands of cattle on a sophisticated computer system.

In the area around Nevers we saw one of the few French "feedlots." Here cattle were confined and fed corn or corn silage. The feedlot is a marked contrast to French cattle operations elsewhere in the country, since farmers seldom have over 50-75 head of cattle. This feedlot with its 300 head was considered very large by French standards. It was well managed with feeders averaging over three pounds of gain per day.

From Nevers we traveled through the eastern part of the country where we saw French Simmental and Salers cattle and Berrichon du Cher sheep. The French Simmental and Salers are dual purpose breeds providing both meat and milk. The milk of both cows and sheep is important in France in making cheese which is a regular course in every meal. In fact, we learned the French have over 360 varieties of cheese.

One of the increasingly more popular breeds in the U.S. is the Limousin. In France we saw this breed on its home ground when we visited Limoges, a city about 240 miles south of Paris where the Limousin Herdbook is located. Limousin breeders are unique in that they pasture their cattle year 'round feeding hay in the winter to supplement the pasture. Most other breeds are traditionally kept confined in barns throughout the winter.

Traveling northwest from Limoges to Angers we were approaching the end of

our 24-day stay in France. Our last visits were on farms of Maine Anjou breeders. This is a particularly large breed used both as a meat and dairy producer. In Angers, our hosts took us to the livestock market to see the French system of selling cattle.

Typical of livestock markets in France, the market at Angers was open to farmers and commercial sellers. Sellers arrive early in the morning to tie their cattle at rails. The seller pays the market a fee for each animal tied in the sale barn. At 7:00 a.m. the buying and selling begins. Animals are sold to commission buyers who walk the aisles bargaining with sellers individually to establish a price. After much heated discussion the buyer and seller generally reach a fair market price and the sale is concluded with a slap of outstretched palms. The buyer gives the seller a receipt which is exchanged for money at the buyer's office in the sale barn. The

French farmers have an extensive testing program and maintain records on rates of gain plus on feed efficiency.

system seems very efficient. In just over one hour we saw over 4,000 head of cattle change hands.

After some last minute souvenir shopping and a final stop at a vocational school for shepherds near Paris we arrived at CoFRANIMEX headquarters in Paris. The trip we had so eagerly anticipated was nearly ended.

As a result of their travel in France, both Brad and Terry look forward to applying some of the ideas they learned from French cattle and sheep breeders in their own farming operations. Summing up his impressions of the French cattle Terry thinks the leaner, larger French breeding will become more popular in this country. "This will be especially true if less grain is used for cattle finishing and the consumer learns to eat leaner beef," Terry predicts.

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The Teton Dam Is Breaking!

WORD spread like a brushfire among the farmers and ranchers down river from the giant earthfilled dam in southern Idaho. One hundred thousand cubic feet of water was headed right at them. Everyone knew it meant disaster—yet no one could have guessed just how bad it would be.

Nine killed. Nearly 1,000 families left homeless. Crops destroyed. Livestock drowned. And what were once fertile fields of potatoes, alfalfa, and grain were suddenly covered with tons of rocks and sand from the wash. The farm machinery found later was mangled and twisted beyond repair.

Twins Douglas and Donald Anderson were among those in the path of the giant wall of water. Both, holders of the FFA State Farmer degree, had graduated from St. Anthony High School only weeks before and were busy getting their livestock to summer pasture.

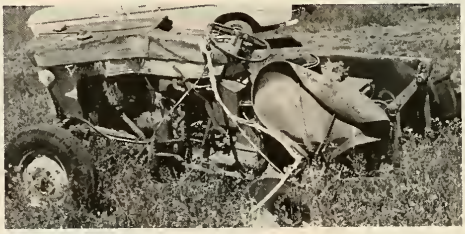
Donald, who had served as chapter president his senior year, recalls the day in early June. "We were out with the cattle when our uncle came wheeling into the pasture with his pickup. We could tell by the look on his face something was wrong and he wasn't kidding. After we heard what was happening we pushed all the cattle to higher ground and started cutting fences, figuring that animals caught by the water might be able to stay ahead of it or at least float as long as they didn't get hung up in the barbed wire."

They had figured right. "The horses were outrunning the water, but a lot of the cows were just being pushed along by it. There must have been a five foot high wall of mud, logs, pieces of houses, cars and machinery all rumbling along in a cloud of dust. All we could do was sit on a hill and watch. It was just unbelievable," concludes Donald with the faraway look people get when speaking of a memory they won't forget.

The disaster left many farmers completely ruined, but most began immediately to rebuild what they had once had. For Don and Doug, it was a chance to put their ingenuity to work.

After clearing their 180-acre pasture of the 1,200 head of feeder steers and heifers from an upriver feedlot that had beached themselves there (most of them survived the flood), the young entrepreneurs struck on another project. On a nearby island in the north fork of the Snake River, several sows and feeder pigs had become stranded. Left to fend for themselves they faced starvation unless rescued immediately.

With help from fellow FFA members Bill Davis and Jay Parks, they began Operation Pig Float. After canoeing to the island, the group would lasso each pig and drag it to the beach. A



Tractors were left twisted like pretzels by the flood. Local chapters have been asked to salvage tractor parts and restore some vehicles not totally destroyed by flood waters.

Doug and Don visit with chapter advisors about their instant swine production project, resulting from the flood.

Sugar City Advisor John Hillman examines one of few potatoes still left from one student's project.

long lariat was strung across the 50 feet of water to a pickup where a waiting driver would secure the rope and wait for the signal to "hit it."

"We'd get going pretty fast, so the pig wouldn't have a chance to sink or fight. When they'd hit the beach, we'd untie them and load them into the pickup," says Doug with a twinkle in his eye that suggests the crew may have enjoyed carrying out the operation.

By the time they had finished, 15 sows and 15 feeder pigs had been collected, all alive and well considering their former predicament. The boys then contacted the legal owners. One man came for his sows but rewarded the Andersons with one of the sows which had by then given birth to a new litter. The previous owners of the 13 feeders, now without facilities to house them, allowed Doug and Don to keep them.

Collecting lumber that had also washed in, the Andersons built a usable feeding pen and were in business. Grain for feeding was acquired from cleaning up a neighbor's barn that had been damaged.

Postponing their education for a year, Donald and Douglas intend to expand their swine operation. While helping their father clean up the farm operation damaged by the flood they hope to become suppliers for purebred hog breeders who were put out of business through the loss of their own breeding stock.

"We both plan to go on to college later, probably in beef management," notes Don.

Commenting on their eventful, if not typical, summer Doug says, "When you weigh it out, the flood did a lot of damage to our farm and much more to some others. But you can't give in to something like that. We tried to make the best out of a bad situation."

"Confound it, Haggerty . . . you were supposed to do the nose!"

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FFA in Action

Plant An Idea

As part of Janesville-Parker, Wisconsin, FFA's Food For America program, about 40 growing stations were constructed from plexiglass and given free to elementary schools.

These V-shaped troughs were glued together and cost $1.50 each. A soil mix and four kinds of seeds (corn, pea, bean and radish) were supplied along with a set of instructions for suggested activities.

Activities included planting seeds at various depths and angles, watching for tap and fibrous root growth, monocot seedling vs dicot seedling, various germination times, damaging seed coat to see effects on growth, watering differences and many more. Growing stations proved very successful and Parker members hope to include more schools next year. (*Steve Redenius, Advisor*)

Two Humphreys met when Ron, from the Forest Lake, Minnesota, Chapter met Senator Hubert during ceremonies at Camp Courage. FFA has raised $700,000 since 1953 for this camp for children and adults with handicaps.

Mixed Campers

The New York Association of FFA is fortunate to own a 1,200-acre leadership training camp in the Adirondack Mountains, known as Oswegatchie Camp. It is open for weekly camping to members of any of New York's vocational education youth organizations during July and August. FFA members often use the camp during the off season for meetings and recreation.

The first camping week each summer hosts an unusual mixture of campers. That week is a combined officer training week, where the state officers from each of the various vocational education clubs in New York are given extensive training by their advisors in such areas as public speaking, parliamentary procedure and use of resources. This year, state officers from the FFA, Future Homemakers of America (FHA), Health Career Clubs, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) participated in the training week. Later in the summer, FFA state officers will teach similar classes to campers in the leadership training program.

Although rain kept everyone inside for most of the week, spirits were not dampened. As usual, the week was a huge success, and a good time for all involved. (*Janet Golub*)

Conference keynoter was past National President Gary Swan, left, with Mark Depta. Below are the other New York vocational student leaders present: Linda Horn, Health; Valerie Davis, FHA; Barry Bruder, DECA; Mark, FFA; Abby Cowell, VICA; and April Cuva, FBLA.

Taking the Field

Some 2,000 FFA members from 115 California high schools took part in the twenty-eighth annual FFA field day at California State University at Fresno.

Santa Rosa Chapter took first in ag mechanics, entomology and forestry; Hughson in grapevine judging; Hanford in dairy cattle, farm power and machinery; Santa Maria in dairy products, poultry and vegetables.

Woodland Senior High School took first in agronomy; Elk Grove in farm records; Fowler in fruit trees; Madera in land; Taft High School, Woodland Hills, in livestock; Nevada Union in meats; and Washington Occupational Center, Fresno, in horticulture.

Security Pacific National Bank sponsored the field day and helped judge many of the events.

Subways to Steers

The Walter Biddle Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is widely known as one of the 11 most unique high schools in the country, and the only one of its kind. "Saul" is a Philadelphia public school and the pride of the school district.

"Saul" uses everyone of its 85 well cared for acres. It is complete with a large cow barn with a modern milking system, a small animal lab, meat cutting lab, poultry house, greenhouse and soon-to-be retail florist shop, turfgrass area, wood and tractor shops and even a good sized golf course.

With these new facilities, the school can accommodate more of the 700 students who apply yearly. Up till now, only 125 were accepted for the freshman class.

Students at "Saul" are being trained for the many agri-careers needed in urban areas.

At "Saul" we don't sit in classrooms all day, although we get the regular high school academic courses. We mow lawns, drive tractors, plant and harvest vegetables, shear and show sheep, make corsages, shovel manure, and collect eggs.

But the inner city students soon become as good as their rural friends in agricultural activities. One reason is that all the students are required to attend one month of practical experience in the summer to see if this is the school for them.

"Saul" students take part in FFA sponsored activities and contests and

(Continued on Page 72)

South Habersham Chapter officers meet frequently with advisor to make plans.

Junior Chapter Can Be Active

ENTHUSIASM, hard work, discipline—all these terms and more apply to the South Habersham Junior High FFA Chapter in Georgia. The list of this chapter's activities and accomplishments could compete with the most outstanding senior high FFA chapters.

This just didn't happen, it was planned.

"When I came, the ag department was in bad shape," Advisor Tom Griffeth said. "The students and I decided to do a major repair job on the building. The system couldn't afford money for paint and other materials, so we took the money from our FFA treasury and repaired the walls and painted the classroom, office and shop."

Having a personal part in the improvement project gave each student a sense of pride. This pride has spilled over to each class since.

In fact, one of the major projects of the South Habersham Chapter during the past year was to build a rustic rail fence around the front of the department to enclose a place for a livestock demonstration area. The area is well landscaped and the horticulture class is planting running roses and azaleas along the fence.

Livestock is a big interest for most of the South Habersham FFA'ers. They became so interested in showing their steers that they helped to start their own local show.

"We exhibited nine steers this year, and many of the boys took their animals all the way from the local, county and district levels to the state contest in Athens," said Mr. Griffeth.

This was the first time to show a steer for many of the students, and most of them came home with prize money. In the Gainesville area show, for example, all of their animals placed in the top three of their classes.

One activity the members are really interested in now is a new heifer project they are just starting. They hope to take their animals to the state show next year.

A contribution of ten heifers by an interested individual will begin the project. These animals will go to the members with facilities to raise them and who are not able to purchase animals of their own. At the end of the year, half of the money from the heifers will be donated back to the FFA chapter to go to another worthy member.

"Since our members are in this FFA chapter for only one year, it would be hard to start a chain. So we are asking that the money from the heifer be divided with the chapter," said Griffeth.

Another reason the South Habersham Chapter has excelled this year is because of the hard working, dedicated team of officers it has. The 88-member chapter has racked up a number of awards. The district declamation award this year went to Marlin Wilbanks, and the second place Lamp of Knowledge award went to Dwayne Ansley. They have earned awards in meats evaluation, land judging, livestock judging and quartet.

One of their major projects is their annual family night picnic. FFA'ers barbecue chicken and serve it to parents, teachers and donors. Last year they served 400 people.

"Anytime we participate in a livestock show or awards program, the most important thing to our members is not whether or not they won, but what they gained from the experience of entering the activity," said Mr. Griffeth. "On our way back from an event we discuss the things we learned and how to apply them to other projects." *(Eleanor Gilmer, Editor, The Georgia Future Farmer)*

Everybody gets to select an individual shop project to work on and complete.

Members added a rustic fence around the ag department then planted roses.

Members take a typical field trip to look over prospective project animals.

It was a work project for all members to relandscape the area around vo-ag.

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This is the beautiful cover picture from the 1977 Official FFA Calendar honoring the heritage of vocational agriculture education with a particular look at the many places or "classrooms" which vo-ag instructors used to prepare youth for their ag careers. Certainly a look at the way it used to be done as compared to today is one important training ground. Details on how you, or your chapter, can get 1977 Official FFA Calendars are in the center section of the new FFA supply catalog. This program offers enough options to help every chapter get publicity.

FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 70)

also stage contests of their own to stress learning by doing. Proudly we claim to be one of the largest FFA chapters in the nation and with our expansion we will surpass our current number of members.

In the Philadelphia school district there is a growing problem with attendance, but according to long time principal Ralph Bartholomew, "Saul's" attendance hits an average of about 95 percent. (*Barbara Lee*)

Convention Coverage

The Connecticut Association of the Future Farmers of America held its forty-fourth annual convention in June. Delegates representing over 1,600 students reviewed, changed and refined their organization.

Senator Lowell P. Weicker talked with the FFA members on Saturday afternoon. He encouraged them to stay in farming and to associate with the Future Farmers. He was received very well.

The National FFA President Bobby Tucker from Texas was a guest during the entire convention. In his main address, Bobby told of his experiences in FFA and encouraged members to learn from their failures.

The annual banquet, which traditionally winds up the convention, was a tremendous success. Having gotten business out of the way and most of the awards and contests, everyone looked forward to the banquet. Among activities at the banquet was the presentation of the retiring officer pins. The banquet, and in turn the convention, closed with the installation of new officers and closing ceremonies. (*Jim Childs, State Reporter*)

A Lamb Brought Happiness

Carol Poston of the Sonora, California, Chapter was one of the most active members in the chapter and in the local community. She had held several chapter offices, won the local public speaking contest, and traveled to the National Convention. In addition, she maintained horse and sheep projects.

Elected as Connecticut officers were from left, Jim Childs; Dale Spielman; Dawn Spielman; Phil Bliven, president; Martha Seifert; and Craig Staebner.

An accomplished rider, Carol won many awards in horse shows. She was first runner-up in the queen contest for the Tuolomne County round-up and rodeo. Unfortunately, Carol was seriously injured in a riding accident in early June when her horse bolted throwing her head first into an iron fence post. She was paralyzed from the chest down.

With the county fair less than a month away, Carol's family and chapter members and advisors pitched in to ensure that Carol's market lamb would be ready for the fair. Shawn Parris of the Sonora Chapter showed the lamb at the fair. It was graded Group 1, qualifying it for the auction of animals raised by local FFA and 4-H members.

On July 3, the lamb was auctioned off for a record shattering $25 per pound. The large crowd broke into spontaneous applause as the bid rose higher and higher. Five local businesses pooled their efforts and each paid $500 for the 100-pound animal. The $2,500 selling price was more than double the highest figure ever paid for any animal at the sale.

But the excitement wasn't finished. After buying the lamb, the businessmen donated the lamb for a raffle for Carol's benefit. (*Ron Arington, Advisor*)

It was a nostalgic reminder for the senior citizens who saw the animals.

Seniors See Animals

When Farm Animals on the Lawn Day happens at Ebenezer Society—a geriatric complex whose residents range in age from 62 to 105 years—the event is an annual one made possible by the Chaska, Minnesota, Chapter. They bring in their animals to display for the enjoyment of all the senior citizens at Ebenezer.

(Continued on Page 74)

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 73)

Fish Finders

The new officers of the Mississinawa Valley, Indiana, FFA held their annual fishing trip at Leesville Lake in Coldwater, Michigan, in early June.

The officers taking the trip were: President Ron Beanblossom, Vice-President Dave Siefring, Second Vice-President Jim Detling, Secretary Karen Shmitz, Reporter Gregg Ripp, Treasurer Mike Trocano, Sentinel Tom Osterloh, Student Advisor Tim Setters and Advisors Mike Price and Ron Pierce.

Though most of the officers' time was spent on fishing, a great deal of work went into the chapter constitution. Also the officers and advisors assigned the new committee chairmen and committee members.

"Most of the time the meals consisted of whatever we could catch, but now and then we ate baked beans or hot dogs."

The fishing was good as Advisor Ron Pierce knows, because in one day he came back with the limit of 30 fish consisting of pike, blue gill and crappie. (*Gregg Ripp, Reporter*)

Jim Detling holds up the 32-inch and 10-lb. carp caught by Advisor Pierce.

Commemorative Classroom

To commemorate 1976 and honor the reactivation of a vo-ag department at Medicine Lake, Montana, the members fixed up their classroom and attractively displayed the official FFA paraphernalia.

Special new wall plaques were built to display the official paraphernalia.

Plywood was cut into appropriate shield designs, then enameled with red, white, and blue stripes. These were fastened securely to the walls at the various officer stations.

Mounted on these in turn was an FFA emblem. Finally, hooks were fashioned to fit the various officer symbols to each shield mounting.

This arrangement not only keeps the paraphernalia always on display but it saves the problem of set up at chapter meetings. It also adds a touch of patriotism, pride and color to the classroom.

Decorating the vo-ag classroom was actually the final step in the rearranging and construction of rooms and storage areas in a recently erected 50 foot by 70 foot steel structure. The advanced vo-ag students worked in groups and pairs to sketch, draft and design a classroom, office, tool room, paint room, lavatories and storage areas. After some initial school contracted work done by carpenters and electricians, the entire vo-ag department went to work on the project.

The last week of school an open house was held in the shop for the parents and townspeople. At this time the FFA chapter furnished refreshments and provided guides to direct and explain various phases of the work. (*Henry O. Haagenstad, Advisor*)

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"I'm learning to be his seeing eye boy."

Sheep Industry

(Continued from Page 54)

to $70 per cwt. to about $45 per cwt.

Still, sheepmen say today it is a profitable business. One example cited is the member-producers of the Pipestone Project in Minnesota, who have nearly completed the marketing of 21,000 lambs from 14,000 ewes with an average gross income of $75 per ewe, and a net profit varying from $25 to $40 per ewe. Others spoke of a similar profit picture.

With profits good, why has the industry declined? The reasons are many and sometimes complex.

The coyote continues to be a major threat to sheep. Chris Jouflas, whose sheep grazed the mountain sides of Vail, Colorado, before they were chased off to build ski slopes, says he lost 20 percent of his lamb crop last year. Many of the ranchers attribute this loss to a government order in 1972 which outlawed the use of chemical toxicants for predator control on federal lands and halted the interstate shipment of the poisons. This lack of an effective means of predator control has caused some ranchers to reduce the size of their flock.

Labor is another problem. Shepherds are still needed to care for flocks grazing on the open range. For many years Basque herders from Spain were brought to this country to work as shepherds, but regulations and other changes have restricted their number in recent years. Shearers are also in short supply. They can earn over a dollar per animal and shear 100 to 125 per day.

Other reasons given for the decline include prices in years past, sheep raising requiring more management than cattle, industry attitude, and others.

"Why young people don't get into the business, I don't know," said Bob Blackford, president of the American Sheep Producers Council from Wheatland, California. "There's an excellent opportunity for any young person with a little money to invest." Blackford, who has been in the sheep business since 1939, suggested 1,000 ewes as economical unit for a person "to do part of the work themselves and make a real nice living."

Bill Hess, vice president of the Council from Virginia, says he thinks many people can use sheep to supplement some enterprise they already have going. Hess said, "Many people in Virginia who started out working at another business with 100 ewes are now approaching 1,000 ewe flocks and have quit their other business."

To turn the industry around, a "Blueprint for Expansion of the American Sheep Industry" has been launched. This is an industry wide effort to attack the problems on all sides. According to Dwight Holaway, Blueprint Coordinator, they agreed to attack the problem on nine separate fronts: research and education, marketing, production, predators, land use, animal health, labor, organizational structure and environment.

The goal of the Blueprint for Expansion is to double lamb production in this country in the next 10 years. Secondary objective is to increase by 50 percent the amount of wool produced in the United States.

To meet the unprecedented demand for replacement stock plans are under way through the Blueprint program to bring in breeding ewes from Australia. Trial shipments are planned for the spring of 1977. If the plan works it could speed up the process of rebuilding sheep numbers in this country.

Will the industry survive? The next few years will provide the answer and FFA members will have a big part in making that decision.

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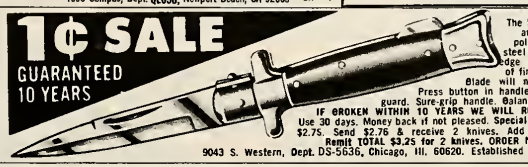

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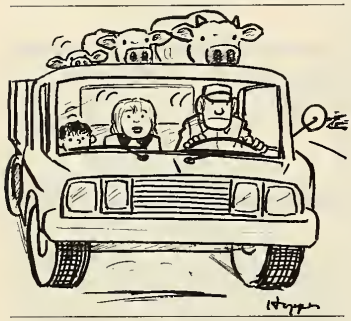
A transferred clergyman was being praised by the members of his congregation after his final sermon. One woman told him: *"You're wonderful! I never knew what sin was 'til you came here."*

Katie Johnson
Stedman, North Carolina

One ranger to another: *"What do we do if we see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?"*

Gary Crouch
Toomsuba, Mississippi



"You're a cheat!" shouted the defense lawyer at his opponent.

"You're a liar!" charged the other lawyer.

The judge banged his gavel. *"Let's proceed with the case,"* he said dryly, *"now that the attorneys have been properly identified."*

Laurie Sordahl
Viroqua, Wisconsin

On the porch of the general store, talk by the old-timers had grown nostalgic about the days when book-learning was beaten into you to stay. Most agreed that the fear of a licking helped children to learn. But one fellow disagreed. *"The only time I was ever licked,"* he said. *"was for telling the truth."*

Another old-timer was quick to reply, *"Well, Sam, it sure cured you."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Sports car driver: *"But I wasn't doing 100!"*

Traffic officer: *"Maybe not, however I am going to give you this ticket as first place for trying."*

Thomas LaMance
Modesto, California

Bob: *"Hey, Joe, did you hear about that Russian guy in the Olympics?"*

Joe: *"No, what about him?"*

Bob: *"He was so proud of his gold medal he had it bronzed."*

Norman Thomason
Amelia, Virginia

The vo-ag teacher went in to apply for a job. Seeing his long hair and full beard, the superintendent said, *"Our dress code requires collar length hair and no beard."*

After shaving off the beard, the teacher returned. But when the superintendent saw his face, the teacher was turned down.

Noble Sokolosky
Owasso, Oklahoma

Did you hear about the crossword puzzle addict who died and was buried six feet down and three across?

Lisa Lowe
Cary, North Carolina

A three-year-old in a nearby hospital was told by his nurse that if he wanted anything to just push the buzzer. Later, the nurse heard the buzzer and she asked over her intercom: *"What can I do for you, Tommy?"* When there was no answer, she repeated the question. There was still no answer, so, a little alarmed by now, the nurse asked, *"Tommy, do you hear me?"*

Over the intercom came a small frightened voice, *"Yes, wall, I hear you."*

Lawrence Block
Waubay, South Dakota

As the handsome farm boy trudged home at the end of the day, he was carrying a live rabbit in one hand, a spade in the other, had a basket thrown over one shoulder and was leading his horse by the reins. Presently he was joined by his pretty farm girl neighbor, who often walked home with him. As they neared a dark lane, the girl broke the silence: *"I'm always scared to walk down this lane with you, you might try to steal a kiss."*

"With both arms full," cried the boy in amazement, *"how could I?"*

"It would be easy," the girl replied innocently. *"You could put the rabbit under the basket, stick the spade in the ground and tie the horse to it."*

Walt Reynolds
Baltimore, Maryland

Charlie, the Greenhand

"Get in the whole empty field for the 'before' picture."

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